



Pleasant Valley South

BAPTIST CHURCH

THE
HERITAGE
CAMPAIGN

Dr. Philip May; Senior Pastor



The Lord led many people in the past to stand strong even during some difficult times at Pleasant Valley South. I've heard senior adults tell how they considered closing the doors at PVS on Sunday nights because attendance was poor. A few members volunteered to continue coming on Sunday evening to light the lanterns and worship. Our challenge is to pass this church to the next generation as a strong witness for Christ.

The PVS family broke ground on our \$2.3 million worship center on August 13, 2000. We held our final service in our previous sanctuary on February 10, 2002. We voted to remodel that sanctuary, transforming it into our current Children's Building. We paid \$350,000 cash for that project. August 19, 2007, we voted to build the Awana Game room and new education building for \$1.8 million. We are blessed to have these ministry facilities on 44 acres.

Our present debt from the construction projects totals \$1.7 million. I invite you to participate in our Heritage Fund to retire the debt early. This is a sacrificial gift **above** your tithe. Every month some of you already give to the "Capital Campaign", and that money is used for payments and to pay the principal. The challenge is for you to give this extra amount for at least three years.

I ask you to make this a matter of prayer. You are generous with your giving to ministry needs of PVS. No one will contact you or request you to sign a commitment card.

Delaine and I decided to continue our gift to debt retirement two years ago when the last campaign ended. We ask you to join us so we may pass a strong church to the next generation debt free!

In His Love,
Philip May

Ken Whitlow, Minister of Education/Business Administrator



Over and over pastors and church leaders report that one of the main obstacles preventing their churches from thriving is a lack of money and resources. While doing ministry isn't always about money, there is no doubt that it takes money to reach people in today's world. How many times have church leaders said, "If we only could afford it, we would..."

Pleasant Valley South has shown itself to be a giving church over the years and has done a great job of taking the gospel to the community and the world. Yet, there is certainly more that we could do. With our debt retired, we would have thousands of additional dollars to put toward our efforts to touch more people with the love, grace, and peace of Christ. We would be better positioned to strengthen marriages and families; to meet the needs of the hurting and grieving in our community; to develop creative ways to engage the unchurched and lost with the gospel; and to train up future generations of Christians who will faithfully carry on the work that others have passed on to us.

Dave Ramsey famously says, "Focused intensity over time, multiplied by God, equals unstoppable momentum!" That's the hope of the Heritage Campaign. It is an opportunity for us to put our hearts into giving and watch God multiply our efforts and make of us a truly generous church. Prayerfully seek how He would have you give. When given in faith, with a cheerful heart, no giving is too small.

Growing Together,
Ken Whitlow





Devotions from our members

There was once an enterprising couple who purchased an early Victorian home filled with antiques. One of them was a neglected old piano. Those ivory keys had probably been played by many talented hands. They swept away the dust and touched the keys, and none of them made a sound. There was no music.

Curiously, they examined the strings. To their amazement, it had become a hiding place. Bundles of cash had been stuffed years before between the strings. Tens of thousands of dollars were hidden in that old piano. But the REAL TREASURE, the music itself, had been stopped.

Jesus said, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Luke 12:34 NIV). When our hearts are focused on earthly treasures, they distract us from what He has called us to do.

GENUINE BLESSINGS COME WHEN OUR TREASURES ARE USED FOR HIM.

Diane and I are at a time in our lives where we do not have the income that was available when we were both working. Many in our generation can identify with that. Our God has been so good to us and blessed us in ways we could not imagine. So, we will continue to support our church through our normal giving as well as the Heritage Campaign to retire our debt and thus honor the Lord.

Are we hiding our treasure? Together, let us get it out of hiding and put it where moth and dust will not corrupt it. I don't want the music to stop because of me. Will you join us?

Warren Jones



The rich ruleth over the poor and the borrower is servant to the lender. (Proverbs 22:7 KJV)

This verse used to be our normal. Cathy and I borrowed for everything from furniture to jewelry to cars. We seldom paid cash for even a meal; we just pulled out a credit card and charged away, never thinking about tomorrow.

Well tomorrow eventually showed up, and when it did it was painful. We found ourselves having to start over financially at a time in our lives when we should have been preparing for retirement. We found out what Solomon meant when he said, "the borrower is servant to the lender."

As bad as things looked, with God's help and through Financial Peace University, we were able to become debt free. This did not happen overnight. It took a long time to work out from the mess we had created. For the first time in our adult lives, we were able to tithe to the church as well as support other ministries. The freedom and blessings that we have experienced are a result of honoring God with our finances.

I believe that God wants His church to serve Him unencumbered by debt. What an impact we could make for Christ if we freed up all the money that we spend on debt service.

Imagine PVSBC being more involved in local missions, unwed mothers, feeding and clothing the needy, assisting people with medical needs and helping with shelter. We could plant more churches in South America, Ukraine and other countries that need to hear about God's grace. I sincerely believe that retiring our debt is simply being obedient to God's word.

I challenge everyone to prayerfully consider giving sacrificially to the Heritage Campaign. I know from personal experience that God will bless us and honor our commitment to become debt free.

Randy East

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.
(1 Corinthians 16:2 NKJV)

God's Goodness Proved Over and Over...

Today, Sherie and I were discussing how time passes, so quickly. We will have been married nineteen years in May. Over the years we've experienced both abundance and scarcity, but the Lord has always provided for us in ways we never could have imagined! We attribute this to tithing; to giving the Lord the first ten percent of our earnings.

I remember discussing our first budget and thinking this tithing thing is expensive. Sherie asked, "Can we afford to give that much to the church every week?" It was a small sum of money; however, looking back, we could not have afforded to withhold what wasn't ours in the first place. Ever since that day, we've tithed and learned three key principles that we'd like to share.

First, tithing will keep you from excessive debt. You may ask, "How does that work?" It's a simple formula: give 10%, save 10% and consume 80%. When we put this formula to work, it caused us to sell the two brand new sports cars we owned when we got married. Plus, I no longer needed the "cool car" because now I had the girl! Over the years, this concept has helped us develop better financial habits and avoid burdensome debt by buying things we did not need. It's hasn't always been easy, and we've strayed off course at times from the saving part, but it works.

Second, He is the provider and we are just stewards. In the fall of 2008 my employer hit extremely hard times due to the recession. I remember laying-off ten or more employees one day only to think, "I'm so glad that was not me." The next week it was me. After weeks of searching for a new job, I realized we were in for a long hunt. Needless to say, we immediately had to cut expenses since we were living off savings. It came time to tithe, and then we realized that 10% of \$0 = \$0. It was a "light bulb" moment. He is the provider! I remember praying, "Lord, I cannot give to you unless you help me find a job." This experience changed my life. Yes, the Lord expects us to work hard, but ultimately He is the one that controls the economy, our health and every other factor that worries us daily. He is provider, and we are just stewards.

Third, it's truly better to give than to receive. My parents taught me this as a child and teenager, but it never made sense. Why would anyone think it's better to give than to receive? There were so many things I wanted. I now understand. Jesus said, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Matthew 6:21). There is nothing better than making an investment into God's Kingdom here on earth. It helps you keep your priorities straight. This goes beyond giving things to your children. It means helping those in need and investing in things that will have an eternal impact. The joy of giving is so much greater than acquiring more stuff.

Like so many others, we've seen God's goodness proved over and over through tithing. It's an act of worship and not a promise of wealth. God just wants us to be obedient. If this is not something you have been doing, we encourage you to get involved immediately. Don't miss out on giving God your first fruits.

Donny and Sherie Payne

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world our faith. (1 John 5: 3-4 NKJV)

This past fall I led a Bible Study on Kelley Minter's book, *What Love Is*, based on 1, 2 and 3 John. One of the major lessons God taught me through this study was how obedience and love are inexplicably intertwined. You cannot divorce one from the other. John clearly states that the love of God is keeping His commandments. If I love God, I will obey Him, period, in **all** areas of my life. There is no menu here for me to choose which commands I want to obey, and which I can just ignore. Love God? Obey Him.

This was most definitely a hard pill to swallow because, of course, as a sinner, I am not always obedient. Obedience is hard; it can be lonely; it can sometimes mean doing things I don't want to do and not doing things I want to do. From a worldly perspective obedience can seem to be a burden, a kill-joy; but from God's perspective obedience is freedom and can bring the greatest joy we can experience this side of heaven.

John goes on to say that God's commandments are not burdensome. That's interesting. When I read this passage I think of what it was like to be a teenager and having to obey the rules my mom made for me (and there were a lot of them). At that time I felt her rules were a burden and because that was my perspective on following commandments, it was not natural for me to transition to believing that following God's commandments would be any different. However, as I have spent more time with God and more time in His Word, I have come to truly see that following His commandments brings true freedom. I have experienced more of God's power and joy in my life because in spending time in His Word DAILY, I have learned who God is and that I can trust Him no matter what. I have learned to keep my focus on how my obedience proves that I love Him instead of focusing on how hard obedience feels in the moment.

Ok, so if I love God, I will obey Him. His commandments are not burdensome. Thank goodness John does not stop there. I know I do not have what it takes to obey in my own strength. John adds an important component to our obedience: faith. Faith in Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world with all its pulls and temptations.

So, let's be honest. It seems like one of the hardest commandments for Christians to obey God and show that we love Him is in our giving. Pleasant Valley South currently has a debt of about \$1.7 million. This is God's church. We are the body of Jesus, and if there was ever a time we need to be obedient it is now. We need to show the world that we put God first. Tithing is not easy, but it is rewarding. Giving is a demonstration of not only our commitment to the church, but also our love for God. If we are obedient in this area, God will provide the necessary means to carry out this task. He WILL BLESS! Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in your heart to not only give your tithe, but to give generously to support the work that God is doing in our community and around the world.

Suzie Henderson

So it's already March. Have you kept the resolutions you made just a few months ago? We all likely made resolutions of things that WE wanted to do-- work out, work harder, work less, get a promotion at work, eat healthier, or spend more time at home. But if we think about things from God's point of view, what would HIS resolutions be for our lives. What would He want us to do? That's a little more difficult, a little harder than doing a few pushups, completing an extra project at work, or eating some broccoli. My prayer for our immediate family and our extended church family is not just in what WE will do. I pray that this year, we will learn to let go of the control we think we have over our lives and let God do it. Give control to God.

There are so many areas in our lives in which God is just waiting to bless us if we only choose to seek and obediently follow His will for our lives. Our sometimes small concept of God places Him in such a small box that we forget that He made our entire world and everything in it. Everything is His. He made it all. He sees it all. He knows it all. Our possessions, our cars, our homes, even our children and our very own lives belong to God. He owns them. Crazy to think about, isn't it? What, then, are the implications of us owning nothing, and God owning everything? It makes us stewards of God's possessions instead of owners. So if we don't actually own anything, letting go of the control of God's possessions should be easy, but somehow it isn't. We feel much more qualified; more experienced to make decisions about our lives than God. We hold back parts of our life, whether it is our profession, our possessions, our money, our children, or our decisions about our future. But as stewards, our only question should be, "What does God want us to do with what He has given us?" This should define our worldview every day, not just Sundays or Wednesdays or during our devotions. Our actions every day, from when we rise to when we go to sleep, should point to our position as steward and God's position as owner. It should consume us.

It sounds so simple, but when we have sat down as a family and really examined our lives in the past, we have found large areas that we were "owning" in our own lives, areas that we were telling God we could handle. Letting go of the control that we think we have over our lives is a scary but, in the end, overwhelmingly relaxing and peaceful decision. It has been during some of the most difficult times in our lives that we have felt absolute peace in the midst of a storm that only comes from God. God is willing, and desires deeply, to guide us in every area of our lives. We know that His will is what we would choose if we knew all that He knows. God loves us. His plan is perfect. When we seek His will in every decision we make and surrender to His control in every area of our lives, then we can have peace and joy in knowing that He will accomplish far more than we could imagine. All of the possibilities, all of the roads taken and not taken, every implication of every decision: God knows.

Financial decisions are some of the easiest to "own" ourselves. The stewardship approach seems to really hit home when we see dwindling bank accounts with bills left to pay and unforeseen expenses in the future. The concept of God controlling our finances may seem outdated in our current society and especially our generation. We are very "me" focused. God has promised that He will be faithful to His people, and will not forsake them now or ever. We pray that as our church plans to be faithful to God in 2016 and retire our debt biblically by the offerings of its members, that we will let go and let God have control. What an amazing testimony it would be for our community and future members! What an amazing heritage of faithfulness to leave our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren! We pray that God will guide our church and its members in amazing directions. Who knows what God can do with a faithful church body and church members that follow His lead? God's lead in our jobs, Gods lead in our giving, God's lead in our families, God's lead in our worship, God's lead in evangelism, God's lead in turning our city, county, state, country, and world to Him.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:10 KJV)

Michael and Jenny Dent

Amidst all of the negative connotations people associate with the millennial generation, one characteristic seems to ring true. It is said that we, above all other generations, desire to be a part of something larger than ourselves, something that ultimately works for the great good of humanity such as initiatives to cure cancer, working to end slavery and sex trafficking, and feeding and caring for those who are less fortunate. This same statement can also characterize many millennials, with vastly different modes of thinking and skewed worldviews that will ultimately lead them to work for initiatives that will not matter in light of eternity. For Christian millennials this characteristic should drive us closer to the only hope for humanity: Jesus Christ.

The millennial generation is also known as the iGeneration, but Christ really calls us to be a Him Generation: to deny ourselves and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). Denying ourselves goes completely against the grain of our fleshly desires and what the world tells us. We typically want more and more, and it is never enough, but Jesus asks us to give our lives to and for Him. One facet of life is being obedient in giving (1 Corinthians 16:2). We challenge our generation to take the opportunity to observe the grace they have received through Christ's work on the cross and, in turn, give back as Christ gave His life for all. The Bible says "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*" (2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV). Let's not solely work and give for the good of humanity but for the eternity of all humanity. Through giving to the Heritage Campaign, you can truly make a difference helping PVSBC retire our debt, allowing us to engage with and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with more people in our community and around the world.

Wes and Brittney Rampley

Like most children, my favorite day of the year was Christmas. On Christmas Eve I could hardly sleep because I was SO excited to get up the next morning and see what my parents had given me. I would lay in bed and decide when to wake up my sisters and when to wake up my parents, and by the time I finally fell asleep, I had it planned down to the minute:

Wake Emily up at 5:37 AM. That gives us 23 minutes to sneak out to the living room to investigate our presents from Santa and wake Sarah up. Mama and Daddy said not to wake them up before 6:00, but surely they won't mind if we're 4 minutes early. 5:56 it is. And all will go according to plan, and we will be opening presents by 6:02!

You can probably remember that excitement as well as I can—ask any kid under the age of ten, and they can probably tell you about it. Our excitement was all about the things we were going to get. But sometime during my high school years, there was a shift in what made me excited about Christmas. Of course, I got excited as I more fully understood how truly amazing it is that God would send us His Son as a tiny little baby, but the other thing that excited me about Christmas was the presents I was going to give. I could not wait to pick out presents that I knew would put the biggest smile on my sisters' and parents' and grandparents' faces, get them wrapped, and get them under the tree. Giving presents became (and still is) one of my greatest joys at Christmastime.

In 1 Chronicles 29 (NIV), we see that the people of Israel gave of what they had towards the building of the temple, following the lead of their king, David. The really awesome part of this scene to me is in verse 9: *The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.* They rejoiced. They found joy in giving their own resources to the work of the Lord and seeing others do the same. As followers of Christ, we should seek to give joyfully of our own resources—our time, our knowledge, our talents and gifts, our unique perspectives, our money, our hearts. It's not always comfortable to give these things, because they are precious to us; some things are easier to give than others. When we experience what it means to “give freely and wholeheartedly”, we open ourselves up to experiencing a wonderful sort of joy that will lead us to praise Jesus for His blessings and the opportunity to bring glory to Him with those blessings.

I would like to challenge you to prayerfully consider being a part of the Heritage Campaign at PVSBC as you seek to joyfully give. I have seen firsthand the amazing things that this generation of students and young adults can accomplish, and I pray that those of us at PVSBC will be enthusiastic about supporting the local church with our giving. May we learn to give joyfully and unselfishly as we passionately pursue a deeper relationship with our Savior.

Laura Whitlow



Staff

Billy Fricks; Associate Pastor

Mark Winstead; Minister of Music

Benjie Mathis; Minister of Students

Chris Giddens; Minister of Children

Wes Rampley; College Minister / Worship Leader

Bill King; Orchestra Director

Tom Pilcher; Minister of Media

Billy Fricks; Associate Pastor

It is exciting to think how our worldwide impact for Christ could be enriched if we were debt-free here at PVS. Through our ministries of evangelism, outreach and adult missions, we desire to clearly communicate the truth of the Gospel of Christ, which offers salvation to all who by faith accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, from our Jerusalem here in Silver Creek to the uttermost parts of the earth. We have seen over three hundred people accept Christ in Ukraine and Peru over the last eight years, and God has used us to be a part of three new church starts and five ongoing Bible studies. We've built numerous handicap ramps and aided in rebuilding homes and churches destroyed by tornadoes and hurricanes here in the states. The opportunities abound from our own backyard to the far reaches of the world to reach the lost for Christ. Only God knows the potential world-wide impact we can have with the resources freed up through a successful Heritage Campaign!

Chris Giddens; Minister of Children

When we look at kids we think of ENERGY. Energy comes in two forms, active kinetic and inactive potential, and when we think of kids we certainly think of them as kinetic and active. But, a kid's potential energy is higher than any other and their potential for ministry in the future is the greatest of all of us. In this campaign, we look to do more with what we have by reducing our debt. We go from potential to kinetic in what we can do and what we can fund. We can see kids running on playgrounds and sports fields and learning in better facilities releasing their potential and becoming more and more active for ministry in our future.



Mark Winstead; Minister of Music

The Music Ministry here is beginning to take our mission outside the walls of our church to try and reach/minister to the community. Last December, we had our first ministry concert at the City Auditorium. In the future, our plans are to not only minister within our church family but be a New Testament choir that reaches beyond our borders to those in our community through opportunities we are presented and those we make. We plan to continue to offer within our walls the type of concerts we have experienced in the last couple of years with the Annie Moses Band and Guy Penrod.

Bill King; Orchestra Director

Long range plans for the orchestra and handbells are to have the handbells sent off for retuning as that should be done about every two to three years, and this year would be the time to have that done. I would also like to add a fourth octave to the handbell choir. For the orchestra we need a dedicated rehearsal room to use when we can't rehearse in the Worship Center. We now have an arrangement that will keep us from having to move everything from the Worship Center to the Chapel by purchasing another drum set, a dozen music stands, and an electric piano to keep in the storage area of the Chapel. The electric piano we had literally died just before the Christmas Candlelight Service. This way all we have to move is the music and personal instruments.



Benjie Mathis; Minister of Students

Our students are growing and taking advantage of many opportunities in our Student Ministry here at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church. My goals for helping them in their growing process are as follows:

- Goal is to keep the students involved in our different ministry opportunities: includes Bible study, small groups, accountability, missions, music, worship, leadership, and service projects in the community
- Keep the ministry well balanced by keeping it exciting while at the same time challenging and life changing
- Show care and compassion for the students that we encounter: includes praying for each of them daily and providing ways to bridge the gap with students and the older generations
- Invite my volunteers to join us in helping our students to grow in their walk with Christ, plus to integrate college students into our Wednesday night program to mentor and be accountability leaders
- Continue to hold Sunday Core on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday Core is our Bible study in which students and teachers focus on gaining an in-depth knowledge of discipleship and fellowship.
- Continue to hold Wednesday Student Fusion on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Student Fusion gives the students an opportunity to share their gifts and talents in various areas of ministry. This service is geared toward reaching students in the community that are in need of a relationship with Christ.
- Keep putting on events and activities that will provide mission opportunities for our students in order to reach out to our community and the lost
- Continue to provide summer mission trips and camps that will help the students to grow in their faith
- Provide opportunities for our students to use their talents in music, bands, playing instruments, etc., on Sunday nights at 5:00 p.m.
- Along with my students and volunteers, I plan to be more aggressive in finding ways to reach out to the church and unchurched students and families in our community.

Wes Rampley; College Minister/Worship Leader

Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church has been greatly blessed through the years as the members of this church have chosen to be obedient to the Lord through giving. Since before I could even walk, I have been at PVSBC and have been able to see our church grow and thrive under the leadership of Pastor Phil May. Now Pastor May and the staff of PVSBC would like to encourage you to begin prayerfully seeking the Lord regarding how He may call you to give towards the Heritage Campaign. It is our goal to soon retire our debt so that we can better minister to our church and the communities surrounding us.

Giving generously towards the Heritage Campaign will open doors for both the contemporary worship service and college ministry to expand and reach others for His glory. Over the past three years, College Core has grown from a small ministry of approximately three students to now almost thirty college students and recent graduates. We were able to join the student ministry on a mission trip two years ago and are currently planning our second trip to Peru along with our Associate Pastor, Billy Fricks. Retiring the church debt would allow us to potentially plan more local and international mission trips as well as invest more in our own students and leaders by going on retreats—both for leadership purposes and to develop a greater sense of community and discipleship among students. The Heritage Campaign will also allow College Core to have more of a physical presence on local college campuses, as we would have the financial means to be involved in more activities and reach new students through advertising.

In regard to the contemporary worship service, this campaign would provide a great deal of opportunity for us to reach even more people in the community for Christ as we offer a different style of worship. Technology is ever-changing, and as our service quickly approaches the five-year mark, it is imperative that we are progressing with the current technology in order to provide a quality simulcast service; this includes maintaining the equipment that we already own as well as upgrading to new technologies to serve us better as our needs change. Retiring the debt would also enable our worship team to be more outwardly focused by giving us the financial means to hold more community wide events, such as holding a Good Friday Community Worship event in downtown Rome. I would also like to see the contemporary worship service begin a coffee ministry that seeks to encourage pre-service community that would create a more welcoming and relaxed environment for our guests and members (Hebrews 10:24-25). In conclusion, I am grateful for Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church and the leadership of Pastor Phil May as he challenges our church to give above and beyond. I pray that you would seek the Lord and allow Him to lead you regarding how you should give to the Heritage Campaign.



TYPICAL THREE YEAR GIFT SCHEDULE

Equal Sacrifice

Weekly	Monthly	3 Year Total
\$5	\$21.66	\$780
\$10	\$43.33	\$1,560
\$20	\$86.67	\$3,120
\$30	\$130.00	\$4,680
\$40	\$173.33	\$6,240
\$50	\$216.67	\$7,800
\$60	\$260.00	\$9,360
\$75	\$325.00	\$11,700
\$100	\$433.00	\$15,600
\$150	\$650.00	\$23,400
\$200	\$866.67	\$31,200
\$300	\$1,300.00	\$46,800
\$500	\$2,166.67	\$78,000
\$1000	\$4,333.33	\$156,000

NOTES:



