

# ::every GENERATION::



SHADES MOUNTAIN  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Church Family,



**THIS MONTH** we have traveled together on a spiritual journey. We have been challenged to impact every generation and strategically position ourselves to reach the next generation.

**TO PREPARE** the Hebrew people to take a major step of faith, Joshua told them to “consecrate (set apart, purify) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” This month has been a time of removing sin from our lives, seeking God’s face, and developing a heart willing to take a sacrificial step of faith. I believe this time of consecration will result in God doing wonders among us!

**NOW WE COME** to the time of sacrificial commitment. In I Chronicles 29:5, King David asked the people, “Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?” In this instance “consecrating” means “to fill one’s hands and give to the Lord.” So the question for us today is “Who will voluntarily without being coerced fill your hands from your treasures and bring it to the Lord?”

**THE FACILITY ADDITIONS** and improvements are needed; it is now time for you and me to respond to God’s leadership. Enclosed is an Every Generation Commitment Card for you. I am asking you to record the decision that God has led you to make as you have traveled with Him during this emphasis. Please record the decision on the card, seal it in the envelope, and bring it to the church on Commitment Sunday, November 4. This will be a glorious Sunday as we turn in our commitments of sacrifice with upright hearts resulting in praise to the Father! If you are unable to be present on November 4, please mail your commitment to the Financial Office at the church.

**GOD HAS PLACED** an open door of opportunity before us that can be entered only by sacrifice. I thank you in advance for the journey you have taken and know that God will be honored with your response.


*Danny Wood*





A New North Lobby Entrance, as well as restructuring of the “spine” (central corridor) and Columbiana Place (Worship Center foyer), will greatly improve interior travel.





## God's Challenge by Ruric and Joyce Wheeler

**WHEN WE JOINED** Shades Mountain Baptist Church 49 years ago, Joyce was 32 years old with light brown hair drawn back in a ponytail—even when ponytails were not in style. At that time Ruric had a full head of hair and looked young for a full professor at Samford, teaching mathematics.

**THROUGH THE YEARS** our family (consisting of two active boys when we joined the church) has been blessed by the vision and dedication of four extraordinary pastors: Brother Hugh Chambliss, Dr. Carl Giers, Dr. Charles Carter and Dr. Danny Wood. Both of us have taught Sunday School classes just about all of these 49 years. It is impossible to describe how friends have enriched and warmed our hearts. We have been astounded by the phenomenal world wide outreach of our church.

**WHEN GOD PROVIDES** opportunities, He expects His children to meet the challenge. It has been a real joy in the 49 years we have been members of Shades Mountain Baptist Church to observe how the good people of this church have responded to God's challenges.

**THE YOUNG CITY** of Vestavia Hills started to grow. In no way could the 150 to 200 seats in Miller's Chapel serve the needs of this growing city. The church budget was so small, the maximum bank loan available was not enough to build God's challenge for a sanctuary. The members of Shades Mountain Baptist Church both purchased and sold church bonds until there was enough money to build what we call today the "Conference Center."

**IT SEEMED** just a short period of time until God presented another challenge to our church. Two Sunday morning worship services were not sufficient for the growth God envisioned for the church. Subsequently the members of the church sacrificed to make pledges and to pay off the huge loan on the beautiful sanctuary we enjoy today.

**ONCE AGAIN** God is presenting a challenge to all of us at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. One part of this challenge is that God has blessed our church with an abundance of young families. His challenge to us is to train our young people so well that they will not be tempted by the Devil's control of the media, entertainment and classrooms, especially college classrooms where students are taught that truth is relative and that the Bible is just another book. We have a dedicated staff, but we must improve the facilities for our young people. This is God's challenge. We pray that each one of us will meet this challenge.



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## Will You Join Us? by Dave and Sue Belcher

**OUR FAMILY** moved to Birmingham in 1974 and joined Shades Mountain Baptist Church. For the past 32 years it has been a large part of our lives, as well as those of our two sons (and later their wives). Our family now has a third generation, as God has blessed us with five grandchildren.

**WE WANT THEM** and their generation (your children or grandchildren) to know and accept the gospel so they can accomplish our church's mission: "to glorify God, to reach people with His truth and love, and to equip believers to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."

**IF WE FAIL** to provide them with the necessary facilities for giving them this knowledge and enlist them in fulfilling our mission, how many will follow some "god of this world" rather than the one true God?

**TO MEET** the challenges that they are sure to face, they will need a deeper commitment and more thorough grounding in God's Word than any previous generation. That's why we dare not shrink from the task of providing them the place to worship, learn, fellowship and minister that the Every Generation campaign will provide.

**I CHRONICLES 29** tells the story of David's desire to build God's temple. God wouldn't let him; instead He gave David's son, Solomon, the task. Nevertheless, David told Israel's leaders he was "ready and willing" to donate huge amounts of materials and money. Then he said to them—and this is what we need to take to heart—"And now, how about you? Who among you is ready and willing to join us in the giving?" David received an enthusiastic response, and Solomon and his generation completed the Temple. It became a place where many generations found God's "truth and love."

**WE ARE READY** and willing to give. Will you join us?

# MASTER PLAN—PHASE II PRIORITY LIST

New Student Facility

Renovate Dobbins Level 5&6  
for Student Education

Worship Center  
Audio/Video/Lighting

Conference Center Renovation

New Park/Outdoor Recreation Area

Central Corridor/Mall—  
Columbiana Place Tie-In

Renovate Dobbins Level 4  
for Administration

Associated Site Work

Vertical Circulation  
at Welcome Center

OUR “EVERY GENERATION”  
COMMITMENT GOAL IS:

**\$14,000,000**