

# Gravel Ridge General Baptist Church Newsletter



## Come Grow With Us

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Mrs. Vauda

## One Body by Brother Robert



I believe that we are a family. I also believe that we are a spiritual body of believers, eager to grow in the truth and wisdom of the Word. I believe that we act upon what we hear, whether it be through preaching or the study of the Word of God.

That is why it is important to be an active part of God's ministry. The Bible says in I Corinthians 12:12-28,

that we are a body of many parts, and all these parts form one body. No part is better than the others. Verse 25 says there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. Verse 26 says if one part suffers we all suffer, and if one is honored every part rejoices with it.

We have set goals this year of four saved and four baptized. We can not succeed if all are not working together. Just as the Bible says; one body, one mind, one spirit. Please make it your priority to be at church every Sunday. We need you, and we truly need each other.

Make Sunday God's Day. Be here and be active.

Let's meet our goals that God has set for us as one **body** working together!

Together We Can!!

God Bless,

*Brother Robert*

### New Web Site!

Check out our new Web site at: <http://gravelridgegbchurch.org>

### Spring Fest!!

April 26- 10:30 AM

Mercy River Boys in Concert  
Hamburgers, Hot dogs, & Fun

Attendance Goal: 80+

Bring Friends & Family!

Brother Adam & Brother Robert have agreed to accept an attendance challenge. If there are 90 people present, Bro. Adam will complete a challenge. If there are 100 present, Bro. Adam and Bro. Robert will complete a challenge together.

Go to our Web site, <http://gravelridgegbchurch.org> to submit a challenge.

The person who brings the most guests will earn a \$25 gift certificate.

## Hey, Teens! by Brother Adam



I am writing this article to let you know that God has laid it on my heart to start a Teen Ministry, twice a month. I want to start it on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I would like all teenagers in our church be totally committed to it. This will help each and every one of you to get closer to God and his Word. The class will challenge you to walk out on your faith and depend on Jesus to lead you in every step of your life. I am so ready to start building a youth group with all of you, so that we can build a strong bond with each

other through the Word of God.

Romans 9:17 says, "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

As a youth group, we can make a difference in our community by the way we display God's power and love. Please let me know what you think about it.

*Bro. Adam*

### Thank You!

*by Sandra Hambrick*

I would like to express a special "Thank you" to Brother Adam and Amber for escorting the Youth to Winter Jam. We had a great time. Thank you so much!

## Time Well Spent *by Heidi Smith*

Time, where does it go? Another year has gone by and what have we accomplished?

I have been blessed with a good job at my children's school. It was truly a blessing to go to work and have the same schedule as my children, and not have to pay for after school care.

But now my day is filled with busy things, and my afternoons consist of rushing to help with homework, chores, dinner, and other errands. By the time bath and bed are over, I'm beat! Before, my days contained things I could do at my own pace and

time.

Boy, how I miss those peaceful, "stop and smell the roses" kind of days! I find it more difficult to have the time to study my Bible, like when I had all day long. But I know I must make time for God—to do my lessons for Wednesday night Bible Study and for Sunday School. I want to keep the commitment that I have made. I take the time to try to help family, friends, and people at work to spread the news of our Lord and Savior.

Right now time is my worst enemy, and I'm constantly racing for more of

it! But I'm overcoming that hurdle and becoming stronger, so I can find the time to do these things that I so love. I really learn so much more about the Bible when I read and study it with other people.

If you find your time is not more valuable than mine, then come see what we are doing in Bible Study or Sunday School. You might learn something new. I do, all the time. Do you think it's time for a change?

Good bless you all. I hope to see you there.

An unsung hero departed this world on February 1, 2009 — Brother Robert's dad, **Armie "Buddy" W. Hunt** (age, 69).

## Prayer Requests

- † For Juanita Auers.
- † For the children at St. Jude's Cancer Hospital.
- † For Lisa Hunt.
- † For the Hunt Family.
- † For Lester Kersey.
- † For Kathy McKay.
- † For Baby McKenna.
- † For Amber Pate's Family.
- † For Shyalama Rao.
- † For Nada Russell.
- † For the Thomason family.
- † For the USA.
- † For our military & families.

## In the Spotlight



### Happy Anniversary!

March 7	Carl & Ronni Vanaman
March 8	James & Shelia Still
March 22	Tommy & Mary Jones
April 19	Dooney & Mechelle Pate



March 2	Bejay Smith
March 13	Montana Smith
March 22	Terri Parker
April 1	Tommy Jones
April 7	Cindy Cagle
April 11	Dave Marler
April 16	Chris New
April 18	Haley Smith
April 26	Kim Klindt

## Announcements

**Wolf Bayou Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm at Heber Springs.

**Ladies' Night Out**  
Sunday, March 22, 5:00 PM - Red Lobster, NLR.

**Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 pm.

**Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck**  
Sunday, April 12, following morning service.

**Men's Breakfast**  
April 25, 9:00 AM. Location TBA.

**Spring Fest**  
April 26, 10:30 AM. **No Sunday School.**  
Mercy River Boys in Concert at 11:00 AM.

**Food Pantry**  
Could use dry goods, i.e., toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc. For more info contact Mechelle Pate.



## Bible Trivia

Answers to trivia questions in the January issue:

1. Delilah (Judges 16:18)
2. Benjamin (Genesis 42:14-15)
3. Elijah (II Kings 2:11)
4. Saul (I Samuel 31:12)
5. A king (I Samuel 8:6)
6. Blessed are (Matthew 5)
7. Her hair (John 12:3)
8. Stars and sand (Genesis 22:17)
9. A donkey (Numbers 22:22-35)
10. David & Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12-24)
11. Two - Ruth and Esther
12. Jacob & Esau (Gen 25:24-26)

Now that we have a Web site, we have a great tool for Bible trivia. Go to <http://gravelridgegbchurch.org/blog> and answer the questions in the "Cindy's Challenge" category.

Every Sunday afternoon Cindy posts five trivia questions to be answered by the following Saturday.

We are having lots of fun with this. The prize each week is **bragging rights** for the most stars earned. Join us! You will be glad you did.

## Youth Events & Activities

Beginning March 22, 2009 and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, thereafter:

Children's Church	10:00 to 10:45 AM
Teen Ministry	11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

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April 3 - 4	Jam Retreat at Camp Formosa (first grade to sixth grade)
April 12	Easter Egg Hunt
April 24-26	One Retreat at Camp Formosa (senior youth)

March 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Wolf Bayou Association Annual Meeting - 3:00 PM	2 Bejay Smith's Birthday!	3	4 Bible Study	5	6	7 Carl & Ronni Vanaman's Anniversary!
James & Shelia Still's Anniversary! Brother Adam will preach *Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11 Bible Study	12	13 Montana Smith's Birthday!	14
15	16	17	18 Bible Study	19	20	21
Terri Parker's Birthday! Ladies' Night Out—5 PM Children's Church - 10 AM Teen Ministry - 11:30 AM	23	24	25 Bible Study	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Note: All Wednesday night meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

April 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Tommy Jones Birthday! Business Meeting - 6:30 PM	2	3 JAM Retreat (Grades 1-6)	4 JAM Retreat (Grades 1-6)
5	6	7 Cindy Cagle's Birthday!	8 Bible Study	9	10 Good Friday	11 Dave Marler's Birthday!
Easter Service w/ Communion - 10 AM (Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck after services)	13	14	15 Bible Study Tax Day	16 Chris New's Birthday!	17	18 Haley Smith's Birthday!
19 Dooney & Mechelle Pate's Anniversary!	20	21	22 Bible Study	23	24 ONE Retreat - (Senior Youth)	ONE Retreat - (Senior Youth) Men's Breakfast - 9 AM
26 Kim Klindt's Birthday! Spring Fest - 10:30 AM	27	28	29 Bible Study	30		

## Gravel Ridge General Baptist Church

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### Mrs. Vauda by Dee Nery

Mrs. Vauda Lee Johnson is our most senior member. She now resides at a retirement center in Dallas, Texas; however, she is still with us in spirit and remains a very important part of our church family. I would like to thank Dee Nery for providing the picture of Mrs. Vauda and writing the following article. ~ *Ranni*

Vauda was born on October 20, 1920, in Bee Branch, AR. Her career in teaching began at Sand Springs, then at South Side in Bee Branch, before moving to Jacksonville with her husband, Earl Johnson. Earl was also a school teacher and employee of Jacksonville Post Office.

Having had no children of their own, Vauda has told many stories about "raising many of her kids" through her years of helping educate 3rd and 4th graders.

After the passing of her husband about 40 years ago, Vauda spent her

time traveling to places like Europe, Japan, Hawaii, and Alaska, but her favorite place was where our dear Lord Jesus once stood and preached the Word of God in the city of Jerusalem. Her one desire was to visit Australia and the Fiji Islands, where her husband was once stationed while in the military.

Vauda made many friends over the years in her field of education and church work. Having been raised in a very Christian home, she kept her faith and love for God by studying, teaching, playing the piano for church services, weddings, and funerals. My most precious memories of my dearest friend and "almost adopted mother" are the times when we sang together, showing love for God and each other.

In 1980, Vauda became a member of Gravel Ridge General Baptist, where

she continued her work for the Lord.

A dedicated person, she was. A great cook, she was!! We can still taste her deviled eggs, pink salad, and butter beans—YUMMY!

God bless you, Vauda for giving us the great opportunity of knowing and loving you. ~ *Your Almost Adopted Daughter, Dee*

### Dedication by Ranni



This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to **Brother Gerald Thomason**. Brother Gerald (age 76) made the transition from this world to his Heavenly home on January 23, 2009.

Brother Gerald was our Senior Deacon (ordained in 1997). He was also the Music Director for many years. His favorite pass-time was singing and playing Blue Grass music. He played several musical instruments, but his expertise was the bass fiddle.

He was in ill-health for many years, but never lost the ability to smile and have an occasional laugh. He loved to tell stories, and often had a funny story to share. Brother Gerald was one of those people who could (and often did) laugh at himself. Rather than indulge in self pity, he accepted his trials in life and kept his spirit light by trusting that God would see him through—and God **did** see him through.

We were blessed to have known him and along with Mrs. Virginia, we miss him. When I remember Brother Gerald it will be with a smile because I know he is smiling and laughing, and I am sure the Heavenly choir sounds even better now.