

news | HOME from

MARCH/APRIL 2009



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR HOMECOMING 2009

"The Best is Yet to Come", more than just a reminder, this was the message and theme of the 2009 Home of Grace Homecoming. On March 14th, over 500 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate their freedom from addiction. "I've never been to an event like this," one guest commented, "that was absolutely incredible."

This year was the first Celebration Service without the Founder Brother Bill, who passed away in July of 2008. The church was silent as his voice recounted his

testimony and vision of what God had laid on his heart. You can hear that testimony at www.homeofgrace.org.

One of the highlights was certainly Lavoy Hart, Pastor of New Life Church, as he brought to life the vision "The Best is Yet to Come". The service ended with a stage of hundreds of alumni singing Victory in Jesus.

Homecoming is an annual celebration held on the second Saturday of every March. Mark your calendar now for next year's event.

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS FAITHFUL SERVICE



Shellene Barton

Through the years, the Home of Grace has provided a beautiful backdrop for a number of weddings. Who could have imagined that a wedding held on July 10, 1976, would change the life of Shellene Scarbrough Barton so dramatically? At that point in time, Shellene became the wife of Billy Barton, and began her lifelong commitment to the ministry. Just a few short years later, in January of 1979, Shellene became Secretary at the Home of Grace. In this role, she did everything from filing to admitting clients to stacking Home of Grace documents high to protect them from the rising waters of the Bluff Creek. Shellene was announced associate director in 1990.

In addition to performing her many duties, Shellene kept careful watch over a second generation of Barton boys spending their formative years at the side of men transformed by a power far greater than the addiction that brought them to this place. As she juggled the dual roles of employee and mother, Shellene launched the first Home of Grace newsletter and became the spokesperson for the ministry on a television show for several years. It's interesting to note that, although she never liked being on television or radio, she sacrificed her personal comfort for the greater good of the organization. In recent years, her role has expanded to Director of the Women's Home, where she has been instrumental in transforming the quality and effectiveness of the program while increasing the awareness and visibility of the program to the community.

Shellene's husband, Billy Barton, has stated, "Shellene's contributions over the last 30 years have been as valuable as any other person associated with this ministry. She's been steadfast in her dedication and has always been willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done without compromising quality. Her commitment to excellence means that she is never satisfied with how things are, and is always pushing to improve."

Thank you and congratulations on 30 years of service with the Home of Grace.

RECOGNIZING OUR 2009 MIRACLE MAKERS

Presented at the 2009 Homecoming Celebration



Mr. Glynn Davis

For centuries, the church has been transforming lives. Since 1965, Glynn Davis has known the important role that he wanted his church to play in the restoration of life at the Home of Grace. Before the Home of Grace even opened its doors, Glynn was instrumental in ensuring that Wade Baptist Church added this unique ministry to its church budget each year. Although he clearly knew the importance of the monetary value of his church's giving, Glynn is better known for the personal gifts of time and service he has offered during the last four decades. His contributions include faithfully serving on the Board of Directors where his commitment and leadership have ensured that the vision of his friend, Brother Bill Barton, would continue to grow and thrive.



Mr. Keith Noble

When one thinks of devotion and the Home of Grace, Keith Noble clearly comes to mind. The reason for the special connection is because Keith has been leading Friday morning devotions every week for over twenty years! Brother Keith Noble originally became involved as a speaker at the Home of Grace for Women in 1986, when it was still located in Vancleave. After several years, he was asked to substitute as a morning devotion leader at the Men's Campus. Throughout that time, he has used his unique and steadfast adherence to the word of God to bring hope and healing to the thousands of lives he has been privileged to present with the gospel message.



The Dees Family

What started as a long muddy road, to the banks of Bluff Creek, soon became a road to healing and recovery, thanks to the generous donations of the C.L. Dees family. Mr. Kip Dees cleared the way with his personal bulldozer which he used to place the first mobile home on the original Men's Campus. The tradition of giving has continued with Patsy (Dees) Jones and her husband Buck whose donation of many acres of land has enabled the Home of Grace to expand its campus and its mission. Mrs. Peggy (Dees) Plunk has also faithfully supported the Home of Grace through her loving sacrifice of time and talent. How wonderful it is to know that the donations of a single family, the Dees family, have enabled others to join the family of God through salvation and restoration.



Mr. Charles Nelson

A familiar Bible passage states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." In 1965, Charles Nelson chose to believe in a vision even when it seemed out of sight. That vision was to provide a place where alcoholics could receive spiritual help with their addiction. While still in his 20's, Charles accompanied Brother Bill to survey the original property, and the Home of Grace became a reality. Shortly after selecting the site, Charles became Secretary of the Charter Board of Directors. While he never dreamed that the Home of Grace could become all it is today, he never doubted the foresight of a man who shared God's compassion and created a new vision for all they could become.

A LOOK AT OUR TRIBUTE GIVING

IN MEMORY OF

Bilbo Tootle

Mark L. Chastant
Anne & Tommy Williams

Rev. Bill Barton Sr.

James L. & Verna Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hicks
Mrs. Hazel B. Thornton
Bill & Sue Hicks
Naif & Jessie Jordan Family
Eugene & Billie Miller

Joan Ryan

Steven J. Ryan

Terry J. Douglas

Kathy & C.J. Couvillion
Traci Delaune
Carl Morrow
Merlin Pritchard
Joyce G. Crick
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Brown, III
Britton & Becky Stringer
Craig W. Griffith
Garris D. Wilcox

J.C. "Dock" Hollingsworth

Bonnie Hollingsworth

Finley H. Hair

Thomas & Carole McKay

William Brady Sr.

His Family

R. L. "Bobby" Mathieu

Julie Mathieu

B. H. Bacot

Charles Nelson

Sarah Worrall

Marie & Robert Russum

Kenneth Bonette Sr.

Bill & Sally Cope
John R. Pannell
Diane & Ken Plum

Joann Lester

Freddie D. Lester

Melody Barton

Freddie D. Lester

Burns Dews

Jeanne Franks

Aaron Lee Bridges

Bettie Linton

Paul Lumpkin

Mr. & Mrs. Norton
Iva Loye Cullifer
Barbara Wassmann
Glenn R. Ryder
Vikki V. Randall
Singles Sunday School Class of First Baptist
- Vanclave

Max Caston

Mrs. Janet McMillian

Eunice Ford

Mrs. Janet McMillian & Family

George Fero

Dr. Tracy Pittman & Kidney Disease &
Hypertension Centers P.A.
Sarah A. Clark

Tom Smith

Beverly Smith

Doug Towles

Delores L. Phillips

J. L. Nelson

Charles Nelson

Vera McClain

Franklin Creek Baptist Church

Clarice Hamil

Barbara Wassmann

Walter & Annie Murphy

Tommy & Anne Williams

IN HONOR OF

Jean Barton

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hicks
Mrs. Hazel Thornton
Richard E. Richey
Eugene & Billie Miller

Daniel Howell

Lonnie & Donna Howell

C. D. Faggard

Young Men's Business Club of Moss Point

Regina Shoemake

Mrs. Vernon G. Ward

Casey Johnson

Kathy & Carroll Johnson

Todd Trenchard

Donna L. Hinton

Fay Wiley

Dorothy H. Gilmer

Jack & Catherine Womack's Birthdays

Richard & Susie Womack

Harvin & Sara Jo Dickey

Carol Dickey

Jared Mitchell

Linda Morris

Mini Patrick

Virginia Bru Inge

Richard Neal

Jane Lott

Dustry Strickland

Angie Baker

A LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR ALUMNI

Dear Staff,

I am writing to send some pictures from Homecoming, but most of all to thank you for taking the time to make this happen each year. Although this was my first Homecoming, it came at a time in my life when I truly needed it. Not because of dope, but because of going through such a "dry season", and Lord knows I have now been watered and fertilized. I'm blooming new buds daily! My husband knows that I have finally been set free from my addiction, but sometimes I still struggle with depression. He encourages me to stay connected and told me if I ever needed help in any way, he would want me to go to the Home of Grace. He said that he'd never felt so much love . . . real people . . . and true Christians, in his life. Thanks guys for being ya'll!



I love you,
Becky from Bunkie

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It was in 1965 that Brother Bill laid the foundation for the Home of Grace. And now 44 years later, we can see the fruits of his labor and the results of those who came after him and cast a vision. On March 3, 2009 over 350 individuals gathered to show their support of this ministry by celebrating the Open House and helping to kick off, "The Best is Yet to Come", a capital fundraising campaign for the Home of Grace.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received. And now, we are pleased to announce \$550,000 has been raised or pledged towards the goal of \$2,200,000. We are well on our way.

But we need you. We can only reach this goal with your help. We are asking you to join with us to help us make this vision a reality. Your donation to this campaign builds classroom space, opens a library/GED program, funds a minor medical clinic and opens a chapel for the Ladies Home to worship.

Help us tell the world, "The Best is Yet to Come." Return your completed pledge card today.

News from Home is a monthly newsletter published by the Home of Grace, a nonprofit organization recognized by the federal government for tax-deductible giving.



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The symbol of trust



United Way of Jackson & George Counties



CHRISTIAN ADDICTION REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION



Combined Federal Campaign #51410

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND COME OUT SWINGING

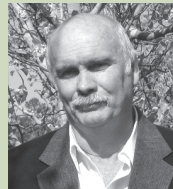


On June 13th, the Preserve Golf Club in Vanceleave, MS will host the 2009 Home of Grace Classic. A silent auction and ladies' tea will be held at the clubhouse during play.

This event is already filling up. Make your reservations now.

For more information call 228-826-5283 or go to www.homeofgrace.org and click on the golf logo.

SEE THE SUNRISE CELEBRATE THE SON RISE



Wayne Myers

Easter Sunrise Service is a special time at the Home of Grace. Each year we celebrate the risen Savior on the banks of Bluff Creek with alumni, friends and family. Come join us on April 12th at 6:30am at the Home of Grace for Men in Vanceleave, MS as Wayne Myers, Pastor of Ramsey Hills Baptist Church, shares his heart. A light breakfast will follow the service.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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