

# VARIATIONS

FEBRUARY 18, 2020  
VOLUME 27, ISSUE 4

*Bi-Weekly Newsletter of  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church*

## THE SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

*by Pastor Gary Furr*

## ***Lent begins next week: The Callings That Find Us***

Last year, our Lenten time of renewal included a series of Wednesday night sessions called “**On the Journey With Jesus: Stories of the Callings That Find Us.**” *Call* assumes that God is not merely an idea or just “out there” somewhere running the universe. God is active, alive, and present in and through personal and historical life. “Calling” means God pulls us toward faith, hope, and love in human lives. All of us have that tug toward something the Lord offers us. Part of our understanding of call, though, is that God does not run our lives like a puppeteer, but invites us in freedom to respond.

The practical truth about this is that we bear some responsibility. Music has a phrase for this called “call and response,” when one person sings and another person answers. A call always assumes a little space for the other to answer the call. Last year, songwriter Kate Campbell, neurologist Dr. Daniel Potts, contemporary Christian singer Dan Hazeltine, and professor and activist Dr. Jenny Dyer all told us stories of lives that turned into new places. Each speaker shared their Christian faith from a variety of backgrounds and stories and the unexpected turns that took them to new places in their discipleship.

Lent is a time of invitation to deepen, to grow, but also, to listen for God’s tug at your heart and life into something better. By listening to others’ stories, we can learn to pay better attention to our own. This year our series continues with four different stories. And again, they have not moved in straight lines but, like the people of scripture, in many ways as they found their way to God’s extraordinary presence in their lives. I hope you will plan to come and invite others.

### *lenten* SCHEDULE

February 26      Ash Wednesday Communion Service, 6pm

March 4            Speaker: Dr. Cecelia Walker, 6pm

Rev. Cecelia Walker is Director of Pastoral Care for Princeton Baptist Medical Center and Director of Clinical Pastoral Education for the Baptist Health System in Birmingham, AL. She also has a compelling story of God’s grace and calling.

March 11          Speaker: Charlie Lucas, 6pm

Charlie is a renowned contemporary sculptor and painter. His work has appeared at the New Orleans Museum of Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, and many other venues.

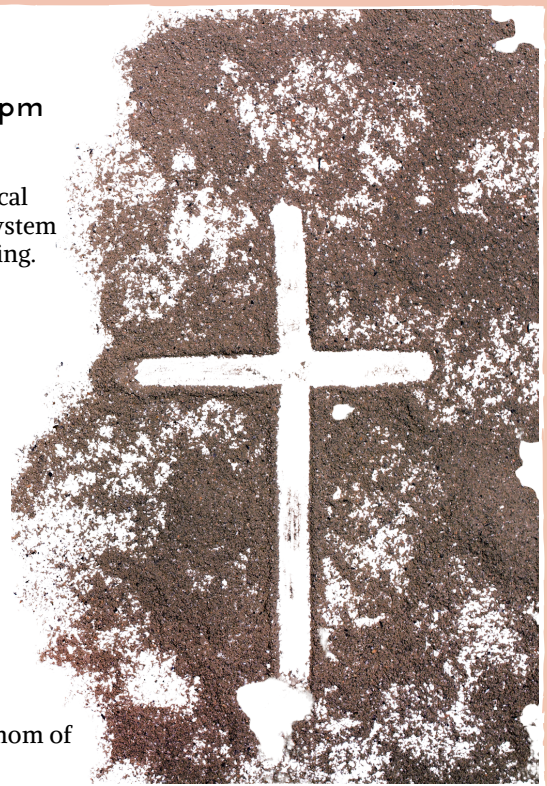
March 18          Speaker: Pierce Pettis, 6pm

Pierce, adored by both critics and the public alike, is one of this generation’s most masterful songwriters. He has appeared on NPR, VH1, CBS News, and the Nashville Network.

March 25          No service, Spring Break 22-28

April 1            Speaker: Dr. Sharon Putt, 6pm

Sharon Putt is a professor of Theology and Religion at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. She is a member of VHBC, and after being a stay-at-home mom of four boys, pursued her calling to teach theology.



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# VHBC PRAYER LIST

## Members in the Hospital

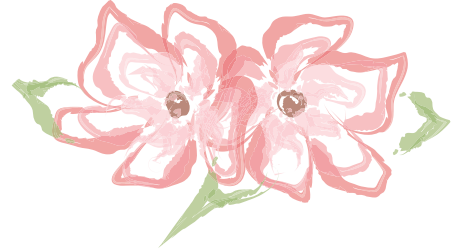
Sam Brown UAB Highlands, Rm. 524

## Members at Home

Maxine Ammons	Grace Oliver
Libby Brown	Nora Ousley
Zelle Buckner	Lynn Owens
<b>Louise Burton</b>	Gaynell Pinson
Bob Bush	William Poe
Carolyn Cain	<b>Carolyn Slappey</b>
Louise Cunningham	<b>Ron Smith</b>
Geri Dodson	Allison St. John
Paul Edfeldt	Crawford Taylor
Esther Evans	Iva Jewel Tucker
Milton Fullman	Hazel Turner
George Griffith	Sue Virciglio
Ardath Grizzell	Margaret Walker
Ruford Hodges	Betty Wallis
Charlotte Kyser	Bobbye Weaver
<b>Betty Longshore</b>	Doris Wilson
Al Lowery	
Leon Nix	
Margaret Northrup	

## Christian Sympathy

Caroline Nordlund & family in the death of her grandmother, Mildred Elmore in South Carolina on February 8th.



Jennifer Cox & family in the death of her great-niece, Ella Claire Kennedy on February 13th.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Chuck & Suzanne Walters in the birth of grandson, Charles Everett "Chase" Walters V on Feb 7th. Proud parents are Daniel & Lyndal Walters, big sister is Ally.

## VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE • SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23

**Deacons:** Lucas Dorion, Tony Giles  
Sunday Wednesday

**Counting Team:** Mike Craddock, Don Baker

**Flower Committee:** Susan Lebold

**Shuttle Service:** Scott Phillips, Craig Youngblood

**Sound Technology:** Norfleete Day, Hal David

#### Worship Care

Babies: Lisa Speegle, Sharon Hartzog  
Preschool 1-2: Kristy Carr, Kay Worley  
PS 3: Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer  
4s/K: Scott McGinnis, Merryl Cooper  
Preschool Desk: Bob Lochamy  
Children's Desk: Judy Schlegel

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**Menu:** Ham, sweet potato casserole, steamed cabbage, cornbread & rolls, cobblers

**Volunteers:** Marilyn Tinnermon, Jerri Pare', LaRue Speights, Kathryn Stewart



### WEEK OF MARCH 1

**Deacons:** Linda Griggs, Becky Griffith  
Sunday Wednesday

**Counting Team:** Christine Pridgen, Allen Fulks

**Flower Committee:** Becky Bradley

**Shuttle Service:** John Wood, David Bamberg

**Sound Technology:** Norfleete Day, Hal David

#### Worship Care

Babies: Amy Hamilton, Kristie Chandler  
Preschool 1-2: Millie Ehrett, Jo Davis  
PS 3: Emily Key, Jan Dulin  
4s/K: Laura Griffo, Jan Deagon  
Preschool Desk: Jennifer Cox  
Children's Desk: Mel Crowder

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**Menu:** Baked chicken w/gravy, rice, green beans, cornbread & rolls, Boston cream pie

**Volunteers:** Judy Schlegel, Bonnie Conn, Jerolyn Phillips

# Tomorrow 19 February

At 6 pm we will be concluding our special series of session offerings:

**JESUS CHRIST IN TODAY'S WORLD Fellowship Hall**

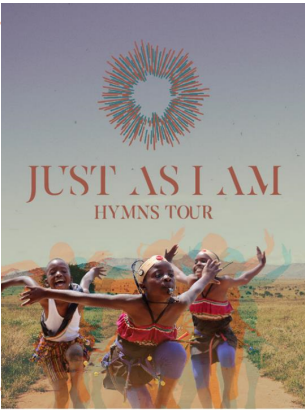
*Sacred Encounters* **Adult Seminar Room**

Prior to session start, we will hear an update from one of our CBF missionaries to Slovakia, Dianne McNary, who will also be hosting our IME youth this summer.

# Next Week 26 February

## Ash Wednesday

The sacred season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday. The forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter allow us time to reflect and prepare for a glorious resurrection celebration. Ashes in the shape of a cross mark worshipers and remind us of our own mortality and symbolize our penitence. This service at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary on February 26 includes the imposition of ashes and sharing of communion. Students grade 7 through adults will worship together for this special service.



## African Children's Choir at VHBC

Sunday, March 15, 2020  
5 pm



Don't miss out on this uniquely immersive worship experience through song, dance and video story-telling!



## Vacation Bible School at vestavia hills baptist june 1-4, 2020

completed kindergarten through completed 5th grade

Join us for Bible study, crafts, music, science, recreation, snacks, and more!  
Register NOW at [www.vhbc.com](http://www.vhbc.com)!

We return to Perry County, AL July 12-16 to lead Seed Camp at Judson College in Marion, AL. Our team begins that Sunday and provides a full day camp experience Monday-Thursday with a wide range of programming including Bible study, visual and performing arts, and more. There are a variety of needs on our camp staff. Please see [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com) for more info or contact Elise or Mike. Thanks!



# A Cappella Sunday

March 1, 2020

10:00 am

To mark the first Sunday in the Lenten season of penitence and preparation, we are joining once again with congregations around the country by worshipping a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment). By singing a cappella, we recognize the Church's history of worshipping with only voices, join with other Christian denominations whose weekly worship consists solely of a cappella singing, and offer the gift of our own voices in worshipping together. **A Cappella Sunday** is a ministry of **The Center for Congregational Song**.

## Roundtable Book Club Tuesday, March 3 at 10:30 am Fireside Room

LaRue Speights will review **Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover. Westover's inspiring account recalls how she not only endured her abusive survivalist upbringing in isolated rural Idaho, but went on to earn a college degree and Ph.D from Cambridge. Please join us!



MINISTRY BUDGET OFFERING	
Budget Needed Feb 2020	\$133,952.00
Budget Given Feb 2020	\$103,300.76

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MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR  
ELISE PITTMAN, MINISTRY ASSISTANT  
MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

*Do you have any news to add to  
our bi-weekly newsletter?*

Email Brittini at [brittini@vhbc.com](mailto:brittini@vhbc.com)

*Next issue: March 3rd!*



**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT VHBC?**

**Wednesday, February 19**

- 6:30am Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study
- 4:30pm Fellowship Supper
- 5:00pm Handbell Practice
- 5:30pm Children's Choir Practice
- 6:00pm Mission Friends, GA, RAs
- 6:00pm Wednesday Sessions
- 6:00pm Youth Activities
- 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice

**Sunday, February 23**

- 8:45am Sunday Bible Study
- 9:30am Orchestra
- 10:00am Worship Service
- 5:00pm YOSE
- 5:00pm Women's Bible Study

**Monday, February 24**

- 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 10:00am Lovelady Ministry

**Tuesday, February 25**

- 9:30am International Friends
- 11:30am Prayer for Missions
- 6:30pm Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 26**

- 6:30am Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study
- 4:30pm Fellowship Supper
- 5:00pm Handbell Practice
- 5:30pm Children's Choir Practice
- 6:00pm Mission Friends, GA, RAs
- 6:00pm **Ash Wednesday Service**
- 7:00pm Ordinance Committee
- 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice

**Sunday, March 1**

- 8:45am Sunday Bible Study
- 10:00am Worship Service - Communion
- 11:00am Ordinance Committee
- 5:00pm YOSE

**Monday, March 2**

- 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 10:00am Lovelady Ministry
- 10:00am We Care

**Tuesday, March 3**

- 1:00pm Alabama Artist Guild
- 4:00pm 428 - Youth
- 9:30am International Friends
- 10:30am Roundtable Book Club
- 6:30pm Women's Bible Study

**Senior Adult Trip**  
**Savannah, GA, Jekyll Island,**  
**& Beaufort, SC**  
**May 18-22, 2020**

**\$549 per person**  
**double occupancy**  
**add \$179 for single**

**1/2 amount due at registration**  
**Balance due by March 11**

**Contact Martha in the church office**  
**(martha@vhbc.com) to register.**



*To my church family,*

*I love you. Three words. One sentence. Powerful and majestic and deep words. Thank you for giving me those words in so many lovely ways to celebrate my anniversary. Sunday, February 9th, was an amazing day! I love you was written all over the day. Thank you!*

The worship service, staff & family lunch, and the PARTY were fabulous. My family also felt loved through your warm welcome and hospitality. I am incapable of constructing a note to express the incredible ways I felt *I love you* during my anniversary celebration, but please hear these words from my heart: I love you.

*With deep gratitude, Nancy*