



# VHBC

## *Connections*

November 14, 2023

*Advent*  
**begins**

November 27th

Service of  
*Consolation*  
November 26th

SAM Christmas  
*Luncheon*  
December 1st



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## GIVING AT VHBC

Nov Budget Needed	\$148,531.00
Nov Offering	\$68,340.00

YTD Budget Needed	\$1,542,440.00
YTD Offering	\$1,346,340.00



## *We're* Almost There

When it's time for our family to go to church or school or taekwondo, sometimes Duncan will say something like, "I'm not ready yet" or "I need more time!" Karyn and I remind him that we can't move the time any of those activities start, nor can we pull extra time out of thin air before we must leave. I'm having to remind myself the same thing as we get closer and closer to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. I can't move the days those take place, nor can I create extra time between now and then. These days are wonderful and I'm grateful for them, but I can't believe we're almost there.

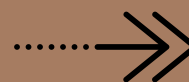
Opportunities for corporate worship at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church abound during this season. This coming Sunday, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll gather around the Lord's table for communion or eucharist (from the Greek for "thanksgiving"). I'll be away this Sunday and Eddie Card, a retired minister of music and friend, will be leading worship in my place.

The following Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Reign of Christ.

Also, on November 26, at 4:00 pm we'll gather in the Sanctuary for a Service on Consolation—an opportunity to grieve and be offered hope, not only around death, but also job loss, illness, divorce, loneliness, strained relationships, etc.



Then we move into Advent season - four weeks of preparation and anticipation. On December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, families with preschoolers and children will enjoy Bethlehem Morning during the Bible Study hour and then at 10 am, Hanging of the Green and the Sanctuary Choir's presentation "A Thrill of Hope" will take place.

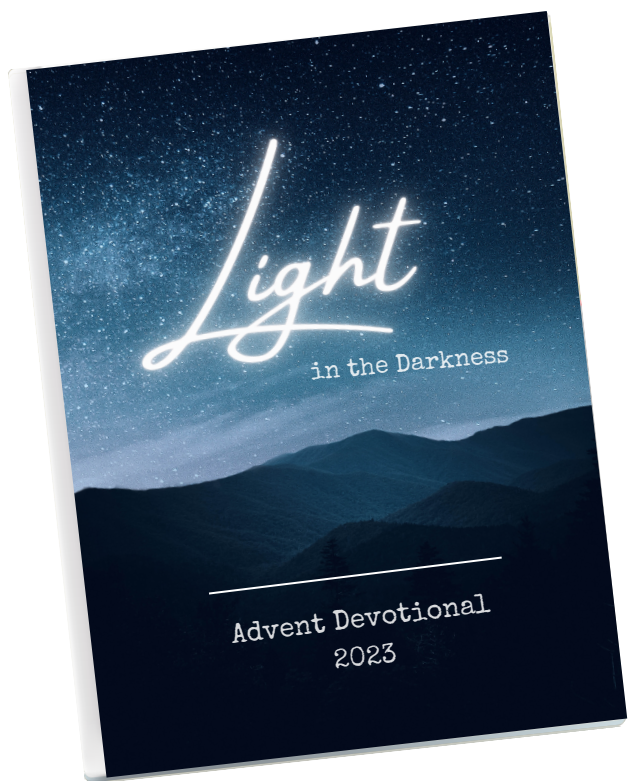


The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the Samford String Quartet and soprano Sadie Goodman. Later in the month, our Children's Choir, the Handbell Choir, and other talented musicians from within our church will make the season so special.

On Christmas Eve, our family nativity experience Come See the Baby will be at 9:15 am and then worship at 10:00 am. We'll also have our traditional communion and candlelight service at 8:00 pm.

This year, we'll again be offering a special personal Advent worship guide: Light in the Darkness. Each week will feature written reflections from church members on the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as well as for Christmas Eve/Day. There are also worship prompts for each day that offer accessible opportunities for prayer, meditation, listening to Christmas carols, and putting Advent themes into action. Accompanying the written material will be a weekly audio podcast with the authors reading their own reflections and a deeper conversation with Eric Spivey and that week's author.

Consider how you might engage in all that's happening in worship and how we might continue to grow together this season.



Keep an eye out for this booklet in the coming weeks! And a special webpage for access to the podcast, a PDF guide, and an Advent playlist at **[vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)**!

# *Advent*

## WORSHIP EVENTS

- NOV 29 Gathering Night, Gathering Light: Another Advent Study with Chuck Poole  
6 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- DEC 1 SAM Christmas Luncheon  
12 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- DEC 3 Hanging of the Green  
Bethlehem Morning 8:45 am  
A Thrill of Hope: Sanctuary Choir Concert 10 am
- DEC 6 GA/RA Christmas Caroling  
6 pm
- DEC 10 Live Nativity 9:40 am
- DEC 13 Together for Christmas 6 pm
- DEC 16 SAM at Holiday Spectacular  
2 pm
- DEC 17 Children Sing in Worship  
10 am  
Christmas Open House at the Spiveys' 2-4 pm
- DEC 24 Come See the Baby 9:15 am  
Christmas Eve Worship 10 am  
Christmas Eve Communion Service 8 pm



*Special*  
Events &  
Announcements

The **Usher Team** is expanding! This is a great (and not too difficult) way to serve on Sunday morning! If you'd like to be included in rotation, please contact Julia Duffy ([jduffy@lowego.com](mailto:jduffy@lowego.com)/205-862-3201) or Barton Duffy ([bartonduffy@gmail.com](mailto:bartonduffy@gmail.com)/205-261-9839).

You are invited in presence and prayers to the ordination service of **Laura Tadlock** to the Gospel Ministry on November 19th at 2 pm at VHBC.



Poinsettias for Advent

You are invited to share in beautifying the Sanctuary for the Advent season! Poinsettias will be white and are \$22 per plant. Place your order by calling the office at 205-979-5920 or ordering at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com).



# Fall Retreat '23

WorldSong  
Cook Springs, Alabama

November 10-12, 2023

The youth have returned from their annual fall retreat! Thanks to all who volunteered their time to minister to our students and thank you to Sara Binet for leading our students so well this fall!



On Sunday, November 26th at 4 pm, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will be offering a Service of Consolation. This service will allow worshipers an opportunity to grieve and to be offered hope, not only around death, but also job loss, illness, divorce, loneliness, strained relationships, etc. Heading into Christmas celebrations can bring up many heavy emotions, heightened particularly by cultural cues that say everything should be "merry and bright" at the holidays. All are welcome to participate.



**Service of**  
*Consolation*



# VOLUNTEERS at VHBC



## ● Worship Care

11/19: Billie Lochamy, Samuel Nordlund, Rachel Farley, Evelyn Hill, Jan Deagon, Jerri Pare'  
11/26: Jan Dulin, Stacey Sapp, Becky Atkinson, Dianne Horn, Laura Griffo, LaRue Gillespie

## ● Worship Tech Team

11/19: Lilie VanGiessen, Hal David, Dan VanGiessen  
11/26: Greg Ruff, Hal David, Lilie VanGiessen

## ● Welcome Team

11/19: Sharon Hartzog, Joe Perez, Howard Finch, Dan Caldwell, Kathy Finch, Lauren Hartzog, Lisa Speegle  
11/26: Sharon Hartzog, Howard Finch, Dan Caldwell, Kathy Finch, Lauren Hartzog, Fred Olive

## ● Deacons

11/19: Brent Warren and Steve White  
11/26: Brandon Bates and Elise Alexander

## ● Flower & Decor

11/19: Marcia Poole and Marianna Madden  
11/26: Libby Pittman

## ● Transportation Team

11/19: Julia and Barton Duffy  
11/26: Mike Craddock and William Dupree

## ● Counting Team

11/19: Becky Best and Charles Evans  
11/26: Hunter Hill and Rachel Jordan

# SUNDAYS AT VHBC

## **Sunday Morning Bible Study 8:45 am**

Find our Welcome Team in the main foyer if you need assistance looking for a class for you and your family.

Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Building. Please sign your child in at the front reception desk.

## **Worship in the Sanctuary 10 am**

Worship guides and hymn sheets are available at the sanctuary entrances.

If you are unable to worship in person with us, please join us online or over the radio at 91.1 FM.

Worship Care for babies through Kindergarten begins at 9:45 am.

## **Youth on Sunday Evening 5 pm**

All youth meet in the Student Building to play games, listen to a devotion, and prepare for the upcoming week.  
(During the Fall/Spring)





# Wednesday

**Fellowship Supper in November**

**Sessions in November**

**15th**

White Chicken Chili  
Cheese Toast  
Dessert

**15th**

Quarterly Business Meeting

**No Sessions on 22nd**

**No meal on 22nd**

**29th**

Gathering Night, Gathering Light: Another Advent Study

**29th**

Potato Soup  
BLT Sliders  
Dessert



*Coming Soon!*

**SAMI**  
EVENTS

**DEC 1 : CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
(\$10 AT THE DOOR)**

**DEC 16: HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR AT RED MOUNTAIN THEATRE  
(\$40 TICKETS)**



# VHBC Connections

A Bi-weekly Newsletter for  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



2600 Vestavia Drive  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216  
www.vhbc.com

## Ministry Staff

Nancy Akins	Minister to Preschool & Children
Sara Binet	Interim Student Coordinator
Mike McBrayer	Administrative Pastor
Dr. Eric Spivey	Senior Pastor
Laura Tadlock	Senior Adult & Adult Ministries Coordinator
Marty Watts	Minister of Music & Worship



# VBS JUNE 10-13, 2024

**GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A  
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS**  
ROMANS 12:2