



# VHBC CONNECTIONS

ADVENT EDITION

**NOW  
28,  
2023**



SERVICE

# opportunity



Each year we purchase gifts for the residents (6-8 ladies) of the Bethany Home. The Bethany Home offers loving support in a residential setting for women so that their lives can be transformed.

We are looking for a person or two to serve as this year's shopper(s). If you have some shopping skills and would like to offer your gifts to serve this season, contact Brittini in the church office.



## Help

**NEEDED**

### WORSHIP CARE

- Working the Desk on the 1st Sunday of every-other month on the even months
- Twos & Threes on the 1st Sunday of every-other month on the even months

### VHBC

## Giving

**Nov Budget Needed:** \$148,531.00

**Nov Offering to Date:** \$122,364.00

**YTD Budget Needed:** \$1,645,248.00

**YTD Offering:** \$1,400,364.00

**Difference:** (\$244,884.00)

# FIGHTING DARKNESS



Humans have fought darkness throughout history. Up until 1879 when Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, light came from one source - fire. For thousands of years, we simply adapted fire technology using different types of oil and lamps to burn longer or cheaper.

The desire for light changed the world. After Edison invented the incandescent light bulb, he began building electric power plants to run his new light bulb. All we do with electricity came because of humanity's race from the darkness to light.

Advent arrives in our darkness season. We fill our homes, yards, and community with light to chase the darkness away. This year let's embrace Jesus, the light of the world, who comes to chase our darkness away.

Our 2023 Advent Theme is **Light in the Darkness**.

This theme will guide both our corporate and personal worship at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

Take steps this week at the start of Advent to prepare to worship.

1. Pick up our Light in the Darkness Advent Worship Guide from the church office.
2. Subscribe to the Light in the Darkness podcast on your phone.
3. Set up your family's Advent wreath with candles.
4. Review the many Advent worship services and events to make plans for which ones you will attend.

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next page*



# Advent Events

at VABC



## Nov 29/Dec 6

Gathering Night,  
Gathering Light: Another  
Advent Study with Chuck  
Poole at 6 pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

## Dec 1

Senior Adult Ministry  
Christmas Luncheon at 11:30  
am in the Fellowship Hall

## Dec 3

Bethlehem Morning 8:45 am  
Hanging of the Green & A  
Thrill of Hope at 10 am

## Dec 6

GA/RA Christmas Caroling  
at 6pm

## Dec 10

Live Nativity in the garden  
at 9:40 am

## Dec 13

Together for Christmas at  
6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

## Dec 16

Senior Adult Ministry at Red  
Mountain Theatre for  
*Holiday Spectacular* at 2 pm

## Dec 17

Children singing in Worship  
at 10 am

## Dec 24

Come See the Baby, a Family  
Experience at 9:15 am  
Christmas Eve Worship  
at 10 am  
Christmas Eve Communion  
Service at 8 pm

*\*Please note there will be no  
Sunday morning Bible study on  
December 24th & 31st.\**

With many Advent and Christmas events and opportunities surrounding us, worship requires intentionality in this season. Intentionality gives meaning and purpose to our busy schedule. I hope you will specially make the effort to worship with us this Sunday, December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent. We are combining Bethlehem Morning, our Hanging of the Green service, and our choir concert, A Thrill of Hope. Like a jolt from lightning, we will be filled with the joy and pageantry of Advent by the time we gather for lunch.

These are good days at Vestavia Hills. As we discover Christ, the light in the darkness, let us reflect God's light in the world around us. I'll see you on Sunday.

*Eric*



# BETHLEHEM *morning*



All families (babies included!) are invited to make meaningful items and participate in fun activities to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to focus on his love in your homes.

**Children's Building at  
8:45 until 9:45 am**

We hope to see everyone at Bethlehem Morning!

During the service, our children are invited to decorate the Chrismon tree!

After experiencing a morning in Bethlehem, we will begin Hanging of the Green at 10 am in the Sanctuary and a special Sanctuary Choir performance, *A Thrill of Hope*. The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the Samford String Quartet and soprano, Sadie Goodman.



**A Thrill OF  
HOPE**



# — Coming this Advent Season



## Dinners in December at VHBC

12/6: Chicken & Dumplins, Collard Greens, Cornbread, & Dessert

12/13: Breakfast for Dinner - Scrambled Eggs, Grits, Bacon or Sausage, Biscuits, and Fruit Salad



## November 29th & December 6th

Starting this Wednesday at 6pm, join Chuck Poole in the Fellowship Hall for a two-week Advent study, *Gathering Night, Gathering Light*. Before each session make sure to grab some dinner from the kitchen! This week we're having potato soup & BLT sliders!

## Gathering Night, Gathering Light

Another  
*Advent*  
study



*Together  
for*  
**CHRISTMAS**

## December 13th

Starting at 4:45 with breakfast for dinner and continuing at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall, join us for Together for Christmas - there's no telling what the ministry staff has in store for some great holiday fun and fellowship!

# Heading to Kentucky



After Fall Fest, our high school students found out where they will be going for their 2024 summer service trip...

by destroying a pinata. Within the pinata (along with plenty of candy) were the letters that spelled out our trip location. After about ten minutes of cooperation, arguing, and a desperate attempt to spell out *DISNEY*, our high school students figured out that we will be going to Kentucky for our trip this summer!

More specifically, we will be working with Lend-a-Hand Center, a nonprofit organization that works with people living in southeast Kentucky through educational, spiritual, social, and health-related services. Lend-a-Hand was started in 1958 by two women named Irma Gall and Peggy Kemner. A teacher and midwife, respectively, Irma and Peggy wanted to improve the quality of community life along Stinking Creek. In the 1950s this area lacked medical professionals, access to higher education, and roads to easily travel to larger nearby towns. Irma and Peggy purchased a local farm, where they grew healthy food to distribute to the community, provided medical services, and led community outreach programs. They began to organize Sunday school and day camps for local children, where young students had access to tutors and Bible study leaders. They quickly discovered how loving and helpful the community of Stinking Creek was, and their nonprofit has continued to provide education, resources, and fellowship over the past sixty-five years.

Today, Lend-a-Hand Center remains on its original property and provides year round services for the community of Stinking Creek. Some of the services they provide are:

- Home repair
- Food/Household Items
- Afterschool programs
- Home health services
- Midwifery
- Dental Care
- Medical Transport
- Medical and environmental education



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Our students will be staying in a cabin on the Lend-a-Hand property, spending our mornings conducting home repairs in the community and our afternoons leading a Vacation Bible School for local children. VHBC Youth prove to be VBS pros each summer, and our time leading afternoon children's programs in Slovakia last year was such a meaningful experience that I am sure our students will be amazing leaders in Kentucky this summer. I am excited for our group to learn more about the work of Lend-a-Hand in Stinking Creek over the past sixty-five years. It is an honor to be able to volunteer with a nonprofit that has such a rich history and a long life of loving their community. Over the past year and a half, I have seen our students continuously go above and beyond to make new connections and lend a helping hand. Their love for each other and the community around them, even if it's only for a week, is a true gift that I know will serve them well. Keep us in your prayers as we prepare for a meaningful trip in Kentucky in June 2024.

## Coming Soon for our Youth in 2023 & 2024

**VHBC Boys Basketball Schedule:**

- Dec 5, 7 pm: VHBC vs. Holy Habits (Dawson)**
- Dec 12, 7 pm: Covenant Presbyterian vs. VHBC**
- Jan 9, 8 pm: ESM (Trinity) vs. VHBC**
- Jan 16, 6 pm: VHBC vs Monstars (St. Stephen's Episcopal)**
- Jan 23, 8 pm: VHBC vs Mountain Brook Community Church**
- Jan 30, 6 pm: Mountain Brook Baptist Squad vs VHBC**



## Christmas Lock-In

December 15th & 16th 8pm to 8am

Wear your best PJs, bring a blanket, pillow, and snack to share, and have a gag gift (max \$15) for Dirty Santa!



# SUNDAYS AT VHBC

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

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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**

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

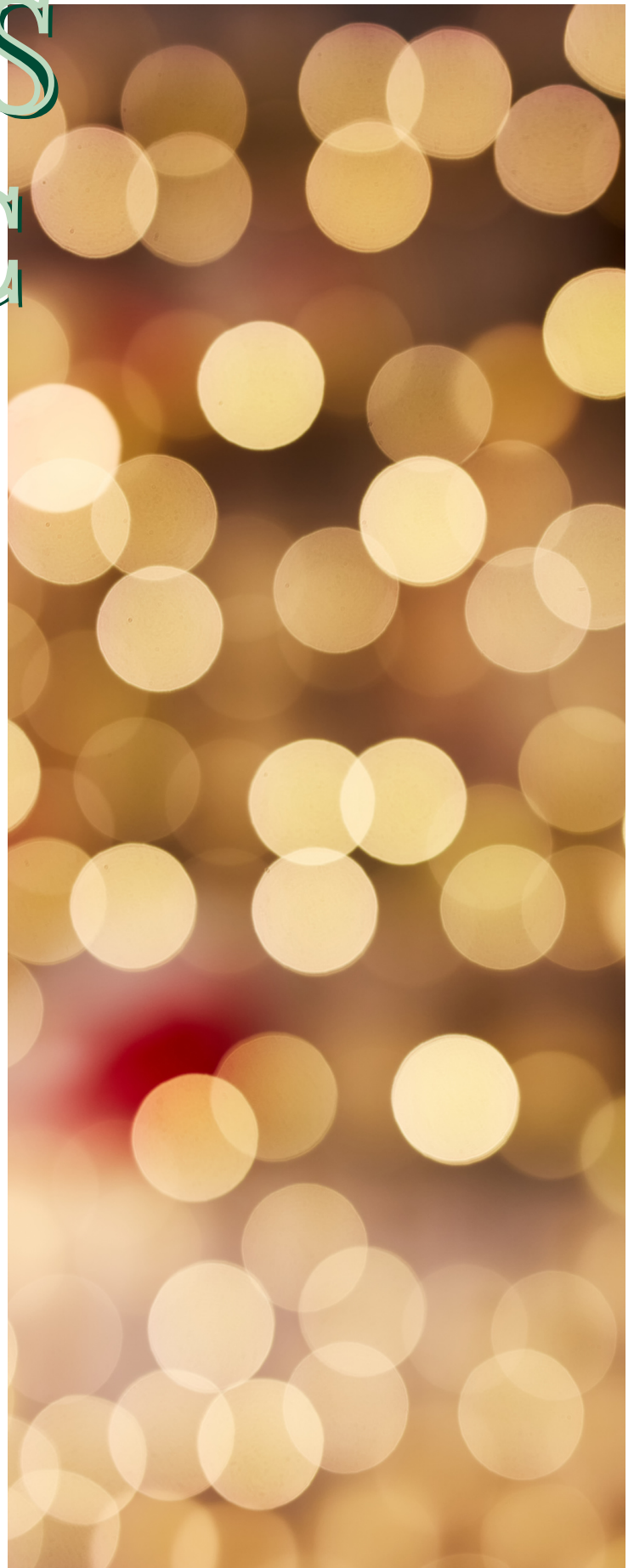
If you are unable to worship in person with us, please join us online or over the radio at 91.1 FM.

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

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

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



# VOLUNTEERS at VHBC



## Worship Care

12/3: Laura Tadlock, Sara Taylor, Libby Pittman, Emily Dorion, Dan & Gay Caldwell,

12/10: Prissy Sumners, Ashley Hattaway, Mary Grace Cox, Shawn Owens, Anna Claire Bailey, Taylor Davis, Jay McFarland

## Worship Tech Team

12/3: Hal David, Brent Warren, Dan McMurray

12/10: Hal David, Lillie VanGiessen

## Welcome Team

12/3: Sharon Hartzog, Joe Perez, Carolyn Slappey, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lauren Hartzog, Lisa Speegle, Kathy Finch

12/10: Sharon Hartzog, George Elliott, Carolyn Slappey, Howard Finch, Kathy Finch, Cappy Blackwelder, Lauren Hartzog, Lisa Speegle, Jason Cooper

## Deacons

12/3: Dick Bodenhamer, Jennifer Binet

12/10: Bruce Burson, Sheryl Buckner

## Flower & Decor

12/3: Poinsettias & Hanging of the Green

12/10: Poinsettias

## Transportation Team

12/3: Craig Youngblood, Brent Warren

12/10: Scott Phillips, Mike Craddock

## Counting Team

12/3: Kristie Chandler, Dick Bodenhamer

12/10: Bob Booth

# VHBC

## CONNECTIONS

A Bi-weekly Newsletter for  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



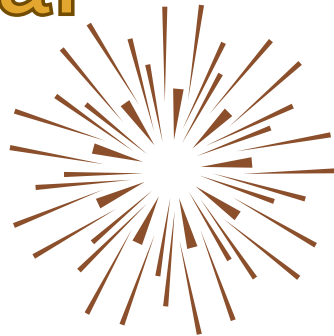
2600 Vestavia Drive  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216  
www.vhbc.com

### 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



# Looking ahead at the new year at VHBC!



### January 7th

Bible Study Teacher Training  
11 am until 1 pm (lunch included)  
If you enjoy teaching children to experienced adults, this is for you! We will gather for fellowship and encouragement and breakout for an overview of the first quarter curriculum for children, youth, and adults. Make plans to be there and start teaching in 2024 with excitement and support!

### January 28th

Growing Together at  
DayTreat 2024 at VHBC  
All ages all day growing together!  
Put it on your calendar today!

# Let's Grow Together

