

VHBC

Connections

August 8, 2023

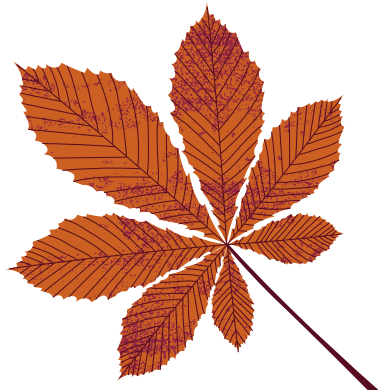
Fall Preview Edition



Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

— *Welcome*

There is a place
for everyone at
VHBC this fall!



Summer is ending and fall is upon us with all that this season has to offer; new grades, new friends, new teachers, (hopefully) cooler weather, s'mores, retreats, fellowship together, and more.

Keep reading for what Vestavia Hills Baptist Church has coming up for this new season!



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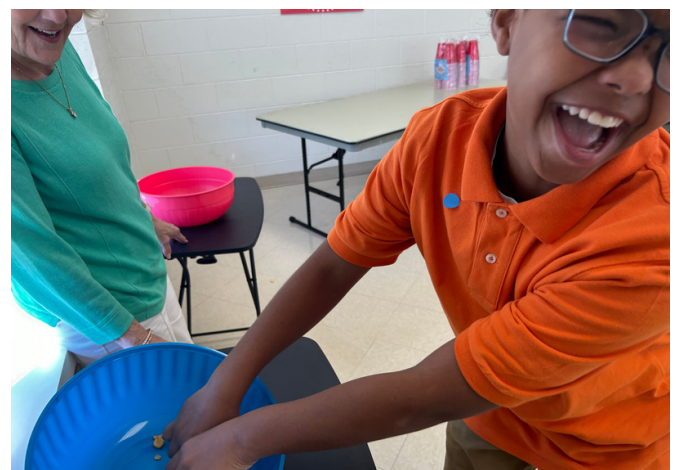
VHBC Giving in August

Budget Needed	\$148,531.00
Offering to Date	\$40,300.00
YTD Budget	\$1,096,832.00
YTD Offering	\$1,004,022.00
Difference	(\$92,810.00)



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Summer Highlights

Thank you to Sara Binet and to our Youth Ministry Team for making this summer one to remember!





GROWING *Together*


Growing inward & outward

At a foundational level, the spiritual life has an organic nature. References to the organic world fill the scriptures. Fellow Christians are brothers and sisters. Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to soil and seeds. Paul names our gifts from the Spirit as fruit. The incarnation is biological. God puts on flesh and becomes human. Paul says we are ALIVE in Christ and dead to sin. Our life with Jesus is not mechanical as much as it is biological.

In an organic manner, our life with Jesus then is ever growing and evolving. Like all life we are constantly changing as we seek Jesus. When we stop changing, our life grows stagnant, and we forget Jesus rather than remember him.

The biological nature is true of congregations who go through seasons. We experience seasons of spiritual growth and energy, seasons of waiting and hoping, and even seasons of stagnation and death.

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Over the last six months, our staff has been prayerfully considering our 2023-2024 church theme. As we reflected on the events and experiences of the last two years – pastoral interim, welcoming a new pastor, restarting congregational programs after COVID, and the addition of new sacred partners – we witnessed God at work growing us. The Spirit has been showing up in unexpected places. We see powerful testimonies of the work of God in individual lives, within our ministry, and within our church.

As we look forward, we find ourselves praying for God to continue the growth we are witnessing within our church. Over the coming year, we will focus on **Growing Together**. Our theme verse for the year will be from **1 Thessalonians 5:11** *"Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep doing it."* (The Message)

Growing together has two elements. First, we will focus on growing inward towards one another. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, "A *threefold cord is not quickly broken.*" We need one another to be the church God has for us to be. Growing inward means connecting to one another, assimilating new sacred partners, and practicing God's love in community. I imagine the individual vines of a grapevine growing intertwined upon the trellis giving strength to one another.

The second focus of growing together is alongside one another. As we grow together, we encourage one another in our individual growth as followers of Jesus. Discipleship is both personal and lived with others. As individuals we must decide to show up in worship, to bring our children and students to church, to take time to pray or participate in Bible study. As we grow simultaneously together, we experience the Spirit of God within us. Matthew 18:20 says, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*

Growing Together engages us in the work of the Kingdom of God inside ourselves, inside our church, and in the world. Over the course of the next year, we will offer new ways for us to grow together. Let me encourage you now to make the effort to step forward into this season of growth and opportunity.

I'll see you on Sunday.
-Eric



SUNDAYS AT VHBC

SCHEDULE



8:45 AM SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

- Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Building. Please sign your child in at the front reception desk.
- Find our Welcome Team in the main foyer if you need assistance looking for a class for you and your family.

10:00 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

- 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.

5:00 PM YOUTH ON SUNDAY EVENING

- 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 ON SUNDAYS

worship care

8/13: Prissy Sumners, Ashley Hattaway, Anna Claire Bailey, Taylor Davis, Mary Grace Cox, Shawn Owens, Jay McFarland

8/20: Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer, Lisa Speegle, Merryl Cooper, Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer, Dick Bodenhamer

deacons

8/13: Ann Knight & Sara McFarland
8/20: Marty Mullins & Jess Nix

welcome team

8/13 & 20: Sharon Hartzog, George Elliott, Larry & Brandi Brownell, Dan Caldwell, Lauren Hartzog, Cappy Blackwelder, Lisa Speegle, Jason Cooper

worship tech

8/13: Greg Ruff, Hal David, Peter LeBerte
8/20: Dan VanGiessen, Hal David, Peter LeBerte

Fall KICKOFF

SUNDAY
AUGUST 13TH

8:45 AM	youth kickoff breakfast second sunday pancakes adult bible study promotion sunday for children & youth
10 AM	communion service first grade bible presentation
11:15 AM	deacons meeting
5 PM	kickoff YOSE (youth on sunday evening)

Co-ed

Young Adult Class

20s-30s
Lower Library
Teachers: Dick & Mindy Bodenhamer

Breakfast & A Bible

30s & 40s
Room 239
Teachers: Jess Nix & Lucas Dorion

Open Door

30s-50s
Room 240
Teacher: Howard Finch

New Wine

Median & Senior Adults
Fireside Room
Teachers: Jim Hall & George Ritchey

Fellowship

Median Adults
Room 243
Teachers: Sheryl Buckner & Michael Wilson

Joyful Noise

Median & Senior Adults
Room 242
Teacher: Gary Furr

Shalom

Senior Adults
Room 253
Teachers: Allen Blackwell & Buddy McGohon

Wild Goose

All Ages
Room 241
Teachers: Ryan Hankins, Melissa McBrayer, Becky White

Co-ed Bible Study (NEW)

50s-70s
Room 250
Teachers: Dennis & Karen Anderson, Hal David, & Mike Wilburn

Women

Life Connections

All Ages
Room 231
Teacher: Elizabeth McCarty

Friendship

Seniors
Conference Room
Teacher: Becky Griffith

Mustard Seed

Seniors
Room 234
Teacher: Jane Helms

adult bible study classes

adult bible study classes

WEDNESDAYS AT VHBC

SCHEDULE

7:00 AM ONLINE PRAYER BREAKFAST

10:00 AM MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

4:45 PM FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

4:45 PM HANDBELLS

5:30 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

6:00 PM YOUTH ACTIVITIES

6:00 PM ADULT SESSIONS

6:15 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

7:00 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR



WEEKLY DINNER

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at vhbc.com to reserve your meal!
- Adults/Youth \$7 per person
- Kids (K-6th) \$5 per person
- Preschoolers & College Students eat free!

AUGUST MENU

9TH *Glazed pork loin, brussels & sauteed apples, sweet potato stack, and pecan pie tarts*

16TH *Mexican lasagna, side salad, chips & salsa, and tres leches cake*

23RD *Poppyseed chicken, watermelon salad OR cucumber tomato salad, & vanilla slab cake with chocolate ganache icing.*

30TH *BBQ chicken, baked beans, deviled eggs, corn on the cob, & banana pudding*

UPCOMING ON WEDNESDAYS

ADULT SESSIONS

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN
IN AUGUST

9TH

Quarterly Business Meeting 6 pm

16TH

Summer Review - Come hear from our children, youth & adults about the ministries and mission and travel our church has engaged over the summer! A wonderful time of fellowship & celebration! Come hear where God has used VHBC this summer.

23RD

A Call To Community with Pastor Eric Spivey. Eric will outline our theme and ministry focus for the coming year at VHBC! You don't want to miss it.

30TH

Hear from the new Executive Director of the Firehouse Ministries, Nicole Boomhover.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER

The Life of Abraham with Dr. Jeff Leonard, Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel, and a book study in the Wild Goose classroom!

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Coming in September...

Finding Hope in the Book of Revelation

Wednesday mornings at 10 am
in the seminar room taught by
Rev. Dale Tadlock

Few people spend time reading the Book of Revelation. In the past, many have been confused, discouraged, and intimidated by complex and convoluted predictions and interpretations of the controversial book. There is a lot to unlearn about this portion of Scripture. However, with a sensible and revealing approach to studying apocalyptic literature, the book of Revelation can prepare us to better evaluate the extreme claims that are often based upon these writings. Could it be that instead of fear and confusion, the book of Revelation can bring us hope, encouragement, and a vision for how to live out our faith each day? (Spoiler Alert: The answer is "yes!")





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	Ministry Assistant
Marty Watts	Minister of Music & Worship



Save the Date

Discipleship Appreciation Luncheon
Sunday, August 27th following worship

Calling all teachers! Whether you teach Bible study, Missions education, or Music Makers you are invited to attend this appreciation luncheon. All teachers of preschoolers, children, youth, and adults are invited to join us for a celebratory lunch honoring your commitment and ministry among us. Lunch will be served followed by a guest speaker sharing a brief message of inspiration and encouragement for the good work you do week in and week out! Look for the sign up link on the website soon!

