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#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT VHBC?

#### **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day!

#### WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

& fellowship supper will return next week on January 4th!

#### **VHBC GIVING**

December Budget Need December Offering

Difference

YTD Budget Needed YTD Offering \$146,768.00 \$167,234.00

\$1,761,212.00 \$1,621,063.00 (\$140,149.00)

#### STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HAPPENINGS AROUND VHBC!

O3 RETREAT ANEW AT VHBC

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#### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

will meet every 3rd Thursday of each month at Newk's Vestavia.

Please contact Melody Harden or Laura Tadlock for more information.

#### FIND VHBC ONLINE



WATCH RECENT SERVICES



IN TUNE WITH VHBC PODCAST



CONNECT



STAY UPDATED



GIVE ONLINE SHELBYNEXT





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# Retreat Thew-

AT SHOCCO SPRINGS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JANUARY 28-29, 2023



We have an opportunity to Retreat Anew this coming January 28th & 29th, 2023. We have the hope to slow down, find fellowship, enjoy nature, and reflect on our spiritual journey.

**Meg Lacy Vega** will return to VHBC to lead the adult sessions calling us to rest and fellowship and abide anew with God. Meg received her BA in Religion from Samford University and MDiv from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Meg is passionate about sharing her faith journey and helping others to experience God Anew!



**The beauty of this retreat** is the inter-generational presence and participation of VHBC members. From children to senior adults, we experience the fullness of the body of Christ anew. Relationships are forged, memories are shared and deep abiding fellowship with one another and God is experienced.

**So if you let this slip by you**, say "yes!" to fellowship, fun, and faith anew in 2023! Don't delay, say "yes" today! Call the church office to sign up! Day participant is \$25 and overnight lodging based on availability.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SHOCCO SPRINGS ON JANUARY 28TH!



## WRAP UP

## Pastor's Note

In the short Christmas season between Christmas Day and Epiphany on January 6, lets pause to celebrate and remember the groups and people who enabled our great experiences at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church this month.

First, let's celebrate our VHBC staff members. The 18 members of our staff worked together to create experiences which impacted each one of us. Our pastoral staff creatively executed both new and traditional ministry events while personally demonstrating God's love to us. Our administrative team supported each event making sure we knew about the opportunities; we had the bulletins when we asked for them and managed our finances as we head towards the end of the year. Our facilities team kept our restrooms clean, our food prepared, and our rooms set up for our special parties. Our children, youth, discipleship, and music support members made sure all the smallest of details were ready when we arrived. We have a great, trusting, collegial, and fun staff team at VHBC. Join me in encouraging them every time you get a chance.

Second, let's celebrate our deacons and We Care ministry teams. Christmas reminds us of those in our church who cannot participate as they have in the past. Our We Care team visits our homebound members every month, letting them know our church still cares and sees them. Our deacons are constantly working to stay connect and care for us. This month, they joined forces with the We Care team and brought gifts and communion to each of our homebound members. We have great pastoral volunteers caring for us at VHBC. Join me in encouraging them when you see them.



Third, let's celebrate the worship volunteers who led us this month to experience the presence of Jesus each week. The choirs of VHBC - the sanctuary choir, the children's choir, and the handbell choir - provided worship excellence and joy each Sunday. Our lay readers spoke God's Word into our lives every Sunday. Our musicians accompanied us in song and filled the sanctuary with beauty. Our music leaders guided our practices and brought excellence out of us. We have the very best worship leaders in our community. Join me in encouraging them when you see them.

Finally, let's celebrate all the volunteers who worked tirelessly out of their passion and skills around our church. I'll never be able to include all of us, but here's a list I've noticed this month. Let's celebrate our ushers and greeters who faithful welcome us to worship. Let's the children's ministry volunteers who helped us experience a Bethlehem morning. Let's celebrate the student ministry volunteers who came at all times of the day and night for a student lock-in. Let's celebrate our Bible study teachers and leaders who studied each week and opened their homes for parties. Let's celebrate our Senior Adult ministry leaders who crafted a beautiful luncheon and made everyone feel welcomed.

Let's celebrate our committees working in the background who made sure our church kept moving forward. Join me in encouraging the volunteers around you when you see them.

Marcia and I will be away this Sunday celebrating the new year in Tennessee with our family. Rev. Tyler Johnson will preach this Sunday. I look forward to continuing the energy we began in 2022 with all the exciting things in store for us in 2023. As we start the new year, always remember ...

you are loved.

**ERIC SPIVEY**SENIOR PASTOR

# LECTIONARY EPIPHANY SERMON SERIES: Gifts in Community

January 8, 2023 - The Gift of Acceptance (Acts 10:34-43)

January 15, 2023 - The Gift of Fellowship (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

January 22, 2023 - The Gift of Bold Action (Matthew 4:12-23)

January 29, 2023 - The Gift of Foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

February 5, 2023 - The Gift of Public Witness (Matthew 5:12-20)



Dear Vestavia Hills Baptist Church,

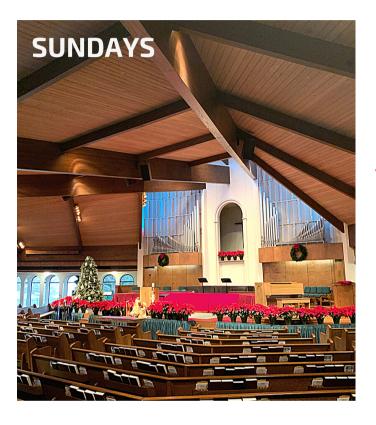
On behalf of the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama and those we serve. THANK YOU!

This holiday season, we are so grateful for the support you are giving to our neighbors facing hunger. We believe that no one should go hungry and everyone deserves to celebrate this season. Your support ensures that families can have less stress during this beautiful time of year. As we think of 2022 and all we have accomplished together, we are so appreciative of your support to help us fight hunger in our local community. You have given the greatest gift you could ever give, hope and health to our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Sincerely,

Nicole Williams, CEO

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT VHBC



#### 8:45 SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

AM

- 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 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

**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.

### 5:00 YOUTH ON SUNDAY EVENING PM

 All youth meet in the Student Building to play games, listen to a devotion, and prepare for the upcoming week.

4:45 PM

#### **FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

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

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





# Coming in 2023 for

#### A LETTER FROM OUR YOUTH PASTOR

Wow! We have accomplished so much this year! Coming out of the pandemic, we have not only held together through it all, but we have thrived



and grown! We have traveled enough miles to go on a one-way cross country road trip, we have renovated our lounge to accommodate more people, and reflect a more updated atmosphere. Four students have made the decision to follow Christ through baptism, and have seen our weekly attendance grow by about 15%. We have served in 3 different states, and students have seen God work in different contexts other than their own. We are proud of the work we have done, while recognizing that there is so much more to get to where we want to be.

Know that this year has been a great one, and I am excited you are on the journey with us. 2023 is going to be even more special because of you!

**GRACE & PEACE, TYLER JOHNSON** 



MUSIC & MISSIONS returns in January!

#### MOMS' RETREAT February 24-25, 2023

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

#### **JANUARY MEMORY VERSE**

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NRSV



## **NEWS & EVENTS**

#### **VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH**

#### **CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK**

JAN 1 JAN 8

Judy Schlegel Brenda Ammons

**WORSHIP CARE** (9:45 am until end of worship)

#### JAN 1

Babies & Ones: Kristie Chandler, Mindy Bodenhamer Twos-K: Jo Davis, Carolyn Slappey

#### JAN 8

Babies & Ones: Millie Ehrett, Sharon Hartzog Twos-K: Kevin Jaquess, Isabel Jaquess

#### **WELCOME TEAM**

#### **JAN 1/8**

Sharon Hartzog Carolyn Slappey Brandi Brownell Larry Brownell Dan Caldwell Chuck Gillespie LaRue Gillespie Sharon Repp Lisa Speegle

#### TRANSPORTATION TEAM

JAN 1 No one scheduled

JAN 8 Tommy Cherry Ken Farley

#### **NEEDS AROUND THE CHURCH**



#### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

Looking to clean out those closets? We would love to have your old board games! Missing pieces or broken boxes are perfect. Drop off in the children's foyer.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



Worship Care is in need of more volunteers for 2023! Are classes are growing and with that comes need for more teachers and helpers! Are you available to help? If so, please contact Nancy Akins nancy@vhbc.com or let us know in the church office 205-979-5920. We'd love to add you to the list!

#### **PARTNERS IN MISSIONS**

#### **CBF FIELD PERSONNEL - DIANNE & SHANE MCNARY**

Join VHBC as we prayer for our CBF field personnel in Slovakia.





Coats and socks for our neighbors at Firehouse Shelter.



Bins are around the church building!





### WEDNESDAYS AT VHBC



Reserve meals for your family online, join our standing reservation list, or come when you can for dinner at 4:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

#### SUPPERS IN 2023 WILL START BACK ON JANUARY 4TH!

#### **WEDNESDAY SESSIONS BEGIN JANUARY 4TH**

JANUARY 4TH @ 6 PM Resolution Revolution with Mike McBrayer in the Fellowship Hall

It's a fresh start to a new year. It's a great time to set goals for yourself. But instead of feeling pressure to join a gym or quit some bad habit, how about we take a collective breath and consider a new mindset calling us from Bethlehem toward our world in 2023. To quote The Beatles, "let's say you want a revolution". Let's engage in a resolution revolution where the new year is filled with the fruits of the spirit excited to see what God has planned for 2023! Come and be a part of the conversation!









JANUARY 11TH & 18TH @ 6 PM

The Least of These: Christians and the Poor with Scott McGinnis

JANUARY 25TH @ 6 PM

**Quarterly Business Meeting in Fellowship Hall** 

## CONNECTED IN PRAYER

#### **WE CARE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

Juanita Blackburn
Libby Brown
Ann Bush
Carolyn Cain
Mary Creech
Jane Deagon
Franciska Dyck
Esther Evans
Milton Fullman
Al & Shirley Furr
Pat Gillespie
Sandy Gillis
Bob & Mavis Hardy
Ruford Hodges
Peggy Jones

Charlotte Kyser

Dot Lowe
Al Lowery
Mary Lysaught
Samson Mathangani
Rudy McMurray
Kitty Newell
Margaret Northrup
Gaynell Pinson
Jerry & Lorelle Singleton
Jean Spivey
Alicia Stigler
Hazel Turner
Betty Vanstrum

Doris Wilson

#### IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Karen Anderson Linda Anderson John Bell Libby Brown Joan Crye Mona Fisher Jim Hall

Rudy McMurray Sarah Moreland Gaynell Pinson Emma Jean Sleeman Gay Thomas Kay Worley

#### **MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD**

Dianne & Shane McNary - Slovakia Awon Shanglai - India Marco & Omar Vallejo - Mexico Richard Owiti Kogola, Paul Mbogo, Benson Mwangangi, & Josphat Thiori - Kenya Chuck Tarter - Ireland Candy & Paul Huynh - Cambodia



VHBC CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY BY VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH 2600 VESTAVIA DRIVE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35216

#### **VHBC MINISTRY STAFF**

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN
TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS
MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR
DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR
LAURA TADLOCK, MINISTRY ASSISTANT
MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP





President's Day Weekend February 17-20, 2023

Save the date for a construction weekend in rural Alabama!

Churches and individuals will serve side-by-side BUILDING HOPE in Macon County, Alabama.

THIS IS A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN:







http://www.alabamacbf.org/building-hope

Building Hope is the first step for Together for Hope and Alabama CBF to address the impact of rural poverty in Alabama in places beyond our work in Perry County. We are excited to be partnering with the existing work of Alabama Rural Ministries (ARM) in Macon County.

#### All skill levels welcome for

- home repair
- Macon Co. food pantry
- Tuskegee Neighborhood clean-up
- Children's event staffing
- Other service areas



#### WILL YOU JOIN US?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LAURA@VHBC.COM