

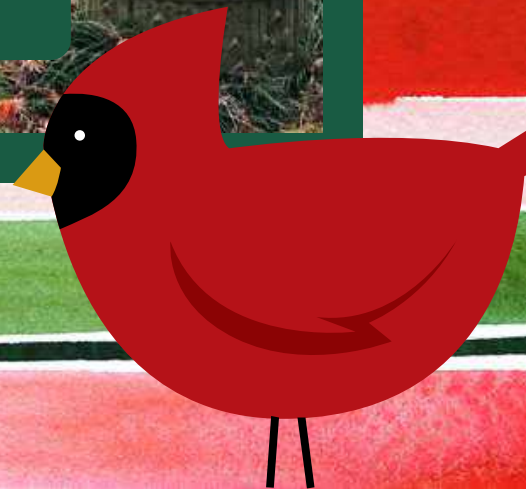


WHBC

CONNECTIONS



DECEMBER 12, 2023



CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE

Help Needed!

The Worship Tech team is looking to expand its group of folks who serve. This ministry team is vital for those worshipping in the Sanctuary and those who worship remotely.

No experience is required; training will be provided. Please reach out to Marty Watts (marty@vhbc.com) if you're interested.



Sounds of the Season

GAs & RAs caroled through Plantation Condominiums on Wednesday, December 6th. Ms. Sue Edfeldt treated the singers with delicious homemade cookies!



THE ANTICIPATION OF CHRISTMAS



PASTOR ERIC SPIVEY

Advent is a spiritual exercise of waiting.

During these four weeks of waiting for Christmas, we are reminded waiting is an element of everyday life. Waiting is built into the Christian experience as we wait for the return of Christ. Yet, waiting is difficult for some of us. During Advent we elevate and practice waiting so God may develop patience in our lives.

I have a waiting deficiency. Waiting and patience do not come naturally to me.

In November 1982, I was 13 years old when my family traveled to the Georgia Baptist Convention. I stayed with a friend's family while they traveled. Each afternoon after school, the school bus dropped me off at my house and I waited until my friend's parents picked me up after work.

One afternoon that week, while I was waiting, I heard a knock on the door.



CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

I peered out the front window. A UPS delivery man stood on the porch with a large box. When I opened the door, he asked me to sign for the package. I brought the big, cardboard box into the house, examining it closely. The label said JCPenney. Intrigued, I debated with myself whether to open the box. With a clear waiting deficiency, I tore it open.



Inside, I discovered the most beautiful department store stereo with a record player, an 8-track tape player, and one of those new cassette players. I had just opened **MY** Christmas gift in November.

Once again, I was overwhelmed by waiting. Nothing inside me told me to re-tape the box and act innocently when my parents returned. Definitely not. Instead I hauled my new stereo out of its box, rearranged my furniture, and set up the best stereo technology had to offer in 1982. By the time my friend's parents came to pick me up that day, I was blasting the radio for the whole neighborhood to hear...primarily because I had no records or tapes!

When my mom and dad returned home, they were disappointed. So, they decided to teach me a lesson and included my innocent sister. Since I opened my Christmas gift early, they decided my sister and I would open all of our presents early. Each day leading up to Christmas my sister and I opened a gift. By Christmas morning, there were no gifts left to open. I still remember the empty feeling I had looking at the Christmas tree with no presents.

I missed something important. My actions wiped away the anticipation of Christmas.

We all have a bit of waiting deficiency in us - wanting Christmas or the return of Jesus to arrive sooner rather than later. We want what we want **now**. We forget God is at work - slowing things down - giving us more time to allow His own purposes to be lived out in our lives.

As we wait these final weeks for the arrival of Christmas, take a moment to give thanks to God for what He is producing in us in our waiting. Then, on Christmas Day, join me in celebrating the arrival of Christ the King. The waiting is worth it!

I'll see you Sunday.

Eric

THIS WEEK

at VHBC

Together *for* **CHRISTMAS**

Wednesday, December 13th
Dinner starts at 4:45 pm
Fellowship starts at 6 pm

Children, youth, and adults are invited to join the fellowship hall for a fun-filled night of fellowship led by our ministry staff. Arrive early to have breakfast for dinner and stay for stories, games, crafts, and loads of **togetherness!**



have yourself

A MERRY LITTLE LOCK-IN

This Friday, our youth will be at VHBC **ALL NIGHT**
8 pm until 8 am!

Grab your PJs, blanket, pillow, a snack/drink to share, and a \$15 gag gift for Dirty Santa!
Breakfast will be provided!



HOLIDAY **SPECTACULAR** 2023

THIS SATURDAY
2 PM

There are no more tickets available for this event!

Ticket holders can pick up Wednesday at Together for Christmas or Saturday at Red Mountain Theatre at the door.

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)



**Don't forget!
We will not have
Sunday morning
Bible study on
December
24th & 31st.**

VOLUNTEERS at VHBC



● **Worship Care**

12/17: Sara McFarland, Mindy Bodenhamer, Lisa Speegle, Jennifer Binet, Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer, Dick Bodenhamer

12/24: Lisa Speegle, Merryl Cooper, Cathy Donze, Abbey Donze, Jenny Henry, Mary Cherry, Virginia Wood

● **Worship Tech Team**

12/17: Hal David, Brent Warren, Dan VanGiessen

12/24: Norfleete Day, Hal David, Dan McMurray

● **Welcome Team**

12/17: Sharon Hartzog, George Elliott, Carolyn Slappey, Joe Perez, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lauren Hartzog, Lisa Speegle, Jason Cooper

12/24: Joe Perez, Howard Finch, Dan Caldwell, Kathy Finch, Jason Cooper, Lisa Speegle

● **Deacons**

12/17: John Chandler, Jennifer Carter

12/24: Julia Duffy, Mary Grace Cox

● **Flower & Decor**

12/17: Poinsettias

12/24: Poinsettias

● **Transportation Team**

12/17: Cris Speegle, William Dupree

12/24: Mike Craddock, William Dupree

● **Counting Team**

12/17: David Compher, Danny Cox

12/24: Charles Evans, Harry Harden



GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

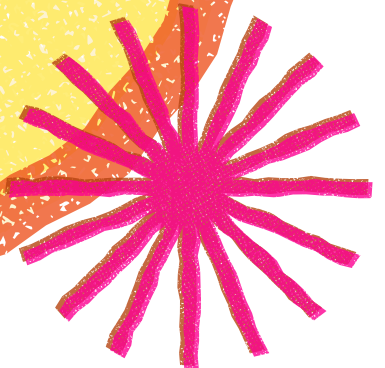
**FREE
EVENT**

Adult, youth, and children's Bible study teachers are invited for food, fellowship, resources, and quarterly curriculum overview for the new year. Sign up online today!

JAN 7, 2024
11:15 AM

**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

Sign up at vhbc.com/events
Questions? Contact laura@vhbc.com



WINTER DAYTREAT

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

8 AM - 7 PM

All ages! All day!
Let's grow together!

Adults: \$20

(Full Day including
breakfast, lunch, & dinner)

Adults: \$15

(Half Day including
breakfast & lunch)

Youth/College: \$10

(includes all meals)

Children: Free

Register online at
vhbc.com/events

Afternoon breakouts
onsite & around town!
Contact laura@vhbc.com
with any questions.

VHBC

CONNECTIONS

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

A BI-weekly Newsletter for
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



Ministry Staff

Nancy Akins
Sara Binet
Mike McBrayer
Dr. Eric Spivey
Laura Tadlock
Marty Watts

Minister to Preschool & Children
Interim Student Coordinator
Administrative Pastor
Senior Pastor
Senior Adult & Adult Ministries Coordinator
Minister of Music & Worship

winter

Dates to Remember

Wednesdays, December 20th & 27th

No Wednesday sessions

Sundays, December 24th & January 1st

No Sunday morning Bible study

Monday & Tuesday, December 25th & 26th; Monday, January 1st

VHBC church offices will be closed.

Wednesdays in January

3rd: Together for the New Year
in the Fellowship Hall

10th: Growing in Community with Eric
Spivey in the Fellowship Hall

17th: Quarterly Business Meeting

24th: Miles College Choir Performance
in the Sanctuary