



FEBRUARY 7, 2023
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Connections





Thanks so much to all of the folks that gave their time & talents to contribute to such a wonderful churchwide retreat at the end of January!

Thank you,
 Merryl, Jennifer, Sara & Jess, Kathryn, Jerolyn & Scott, Craig, Becky & Steve, Lisa, Gilda, Delores, Nancy, Tyler & Alexis, Jay & Sara, and so many more!

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on the cover

highlights from our churchwide RETREAT ANEW!

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WATCH RECENT SERVICES



CONNECT



STAY UPDATED



IN TUNE WITH VHBC PODCAST



GIVE ONLINE SHELBYNEXT



WWW.VHBC.COM



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MY Love STORY

by Eric Spivey

Since this is our first February together as pastor and people, let me tell you my love story. This is Part 1. I'll share the rest of the story in our February 21st Newsletter.

The story starts in the early 1960's when a young preacher boy at Mercer University catches the eye of a beautiful secretary and fellow student. When they marry, the preacher and the teacher dream of a family together.



The couple spends their newlywed years pastoring a country church. They learn how to love and be loved among these farmers, doctors and housewives. These lessons shape their lives.

In those days, preachers worth their salt attended seminary. Soon, the honeymoon is over and the bride teaches in a big city school and the groom attempts to master Greek and Hebrew. Life fills with school and friends and eventually another country church on the weekend. As the years pass, they watch friends welcome little ones into the world ... and they keep teaching, studying and preaching.



Tests and doctors, questions and fears follow. Years rolled on. The world keeps moving. Soon, something shifts. Questionnaires and case workers, hopes and dreams develop. Weeks and months roll together. The world keeps moving with a skip in its step.

On Monday, February 10th, 1969 a baby boy bounces into the world loved more deeply than anyone will ever know. On this day, a young, unnamed, single college student gives the world a lesson in love. She loves that boy enough to place him in the hands of a nurse and drive away.



On Wednesday, February 12, the young couple sits down for a birthday meal. It is their 7th celebration together and still the chairs around the table sit empty. The phone rings. A yell ensues. A baby boy waits for their love. The bride exclaims with tears in her eyes, "It's my best birthday gift ever!"

On Friday, February 14, the couple receives a true Valentine's Day miracle ... a deep, intense love moves into their lives with the arrival of a gurgling, smelly, baby boy. Love invested becomes love received.

As the adopted son, I have been captured by love in so many ways: by the sacrificial love of my birth mother, by the invested love of my parents, and by the never doubted knowledge that I am loved.

Jesus describes God with similar language. "God loved the world so much, God gave God's one and only son, so that whoever believes in him, will not perish, but shall receive eternal life." I grasp this love because it captured me the moment I arrived in the world. Thanks be to God. Amen



SPECIAL EVENTS

ENCOUNTERING
GOD

Cultivating Habits of Faith Through the Spiritual Disciplines

pre-order book \$16.99

register here



Please join the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church Women's Bible Study as we meet together beginning February 19th & 21st and learn more about Spiritual Disciplines through Kelly Minter's 7-session study *Encountering God*.

Sunday Evenings at 5:30 pm
Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 am


JOURNEY THRU LENT

A STUDENT-CENTERED GATHERING

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

2600 VESTAVIA DR
VESTAVIA, AL 35216
VHBC.COM

FREE DINNER FOR ALL
COLLEGE STUDENTS!




Register online at vhbc.com



Over The Mountain Festivals
and
MARGARET H. ROY
PRESENT

Let Music Live!

A Concert of Sacred Choral Music



Dr. Milburn Price, Guest Conductor
Ms. Karen Payne Krekelberg, Organist, Accompanist
The Over the Mountain Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, February 12, 2023 | Four o'clock in the afternoon

| Riverchase United Methodist Church | 1953 Old Montgomery Highway | Birmingham, AL 35244 |
otmfestivals.org | info@otmfestivals.org

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT VHBC



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.

4:45 PM

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at vhbc.com 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





SUNDAYS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & YOSE (NO YOSE 1/29)

MONDAYS

428 FEBRUARY 13TH & FEBRUARY 27TH

WEDNESDAYS

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER @ 4:45PM & WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE @ 6PM

SPECIAL EVENT

FOOTBALL & FOOD PARTY ON 2/12

vhbc children's ministry



SECOND SUNDAY PANCAKES

Sunday, February 12th 8:45 am

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO A PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM BEFORE SUNDAY SCHOOL!



MOMS RETREAT

The 29th annual VHBC Moms Retreat will be held at the church on Friday, February 24th 6-8:30 pm and Saturday, February 25th 9 am - 2pm.



Details:

- \$35, pay online or church office
- Meals - Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch
- Bring your Bible and favorite mug
- Bring a wrapped \$15 gift

VBS AT VHBC 2023

Coming in June!!!

JUNE 12-15, 2023

Ages 9 & up can participate on June 16th for a trip to volunteer at the food bank with lunch after!



NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

FEB 12 FEB 19
Jay McFarland Dick Bodenhamer

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

FEB 12
Babies & Creepers: Prissy Summers, Ashley Hattaway
Walking Ones - Threes: Becky Best
Fours - K: Mary Grace Cox, Shawn Owens
FEB 19
Babies & Creepers: Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer
Walking Ones - Threes: Samuel Nordlund, Annelise Nordlund
Fours - K: Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer

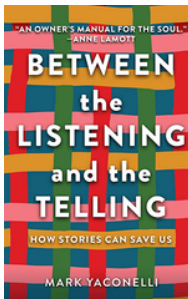
WELCOME TEAM

FEB 12/19
Sharon Hartzog
Howard Finch
Brandi Brownell
Larry Brownell
Dan Caldwell
Lauren Hartzog
Cappy Blackwelder
Joe Perez
Fred Olive

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

FEB 12 William Dupree
 Cris Speegle
FEB 19 Tommy Cherry
 Brad Farley

LIBRARY NEWS



NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

On Wednesday night, we enjoyed hearing guest speaker Dixie Ford share from Mark Yaconelli's new book, *Between the Listening and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us*.

Stories tether us to what matters most: our families, our friends, our hearts, our planet, the wondrous mystery of life itself. Mark Yaconelli leads readers into an enchanting meditation on the power of storytelling in our individual and collective lives. We tell stories to remember who we are. We tell stories to savor the pleasure of living. Stories can be medicine, and they can transform entire communities.

WE CARE NEWS

Meet our newest We Care visitor, Patches! When Virginia Wood learned how much Mary Lysaght loved dogs, she did not hesitate in taking Patches along for her next visit. Thanks to Patches and Virginia for your visit with Mary!



The We Care Homebound Team makes contacts and visits with our VHBC homebound friends. Contact Virginia Wood or Nancy Akins to learn how you can participate in this wonderful ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAUL BAXLEY SPEAKING ON FEBRUARY 12TH

The Executive Coordinator of CBF, Paul Baxley, will come lead us in worship as well as speak during the Bible study hour (9 am in the fellowship hall) about his work and leadership of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Come and hear about CBF's local and global work to be the hands and feet of Christ.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP



will meet every 3rd Thursday of each month at Newk's Vestavia. See you February 16th at 11 am!

Please contact Melody Harden or Laura Tadlock for more information.

WEDNESDAYS in February

8

FEB

Dinner Menu: Breakfast strata, sausage links, tater tots, fruit, dessert

Contemplative Prayer continues in the Chapel, **Love Wins** book study continues with John Chandler, & **Baptist Women in Ministry** continues in the Fellowship Hall.

15

FEB

Dinner Menu: Chicken Divan, white rice, roasted veggies, roll, dessert

Contemplative Prayer continues in the Chapel, **Love Wins** book study continues with John Chandler, & **Baptist Women in Ministry** continues in the Fellowship Hall.

22

FEB

Dinner Menu: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread

Ash Wednesday Service at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

CHECK VHBC.COM

for weekly updates on Wednesday Sessions and the complete menu for adults and children!

IN THE HOSPITAL**UPCOMING PROCEDURES**

Kay Worley February 10th

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Linda Anderson
John Bell
Libby Brown
Mona Fisher
Jerri Pare'
Gaynell Pinson
Barbara Price
Laura Tadlock
Gay Thomas

HOMEBOUND & WE CARE

Juanita Blackburn	Dot Lowe
Libby Brown	Al Lowery
Ann Bush	Mary Lysaght
Mary Creech	Samson Mathangani
Jane Deagon	Kitty Newell
Franciska Dyck	Margaret Northrup
Esther Evans	Gaynell Pinson
Milton Fullman	Jerry & Lorelle
Al & Shirley Furr	Singleton
Pat Gillespie	Jean Spivey
Sandy Gillis	Alicia Stigler
Bob & Mavis Hardy	Hazel Turner
Ruford Hodges	Betty Vanstrum
Peggy Jones	Doris Wilson
Charlotte Kyser	

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
Kandy & Paul Huynh – Cambodia

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Suzanne Reece and family in the loss of her father on January 27th.

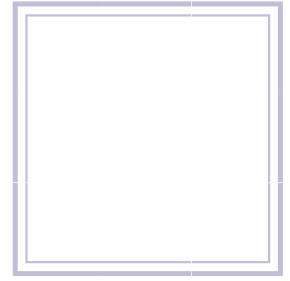
Sara Hamilton and family in the loss of her brother, Frank Standifer on February 7th in Akin, SC.

Please send prayer requests or updates to Jennifer Tiehen or the church office at the contacts provided. Thank you!

(205) 979-5920

JENNIFER@VHBC.COM

VHBC CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY
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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



NAME TAGS RETURN IN FEB!

As part of our Fellowship Anew theme for Epiphany, we are bringing back name tags for February. Please take time to complete your name tag when you come to worship and make an effort to learn the name of someone new to you.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING RETREAT

Our deacons, committee chairs, transition team, pastor search committee and staff will meet on Sunday, February 26 to begin a spiritual discernment process. Beginning with the aspirations the congregation named during the transition period of the interim, we will seek to identify congregational goals to guide us over the next couple of years. Our church has done great work over the last two years to live into God's future. I look forward to seeing how this work will focus us for the next few years. Please pray for our leaders and church as we move through the process.

