

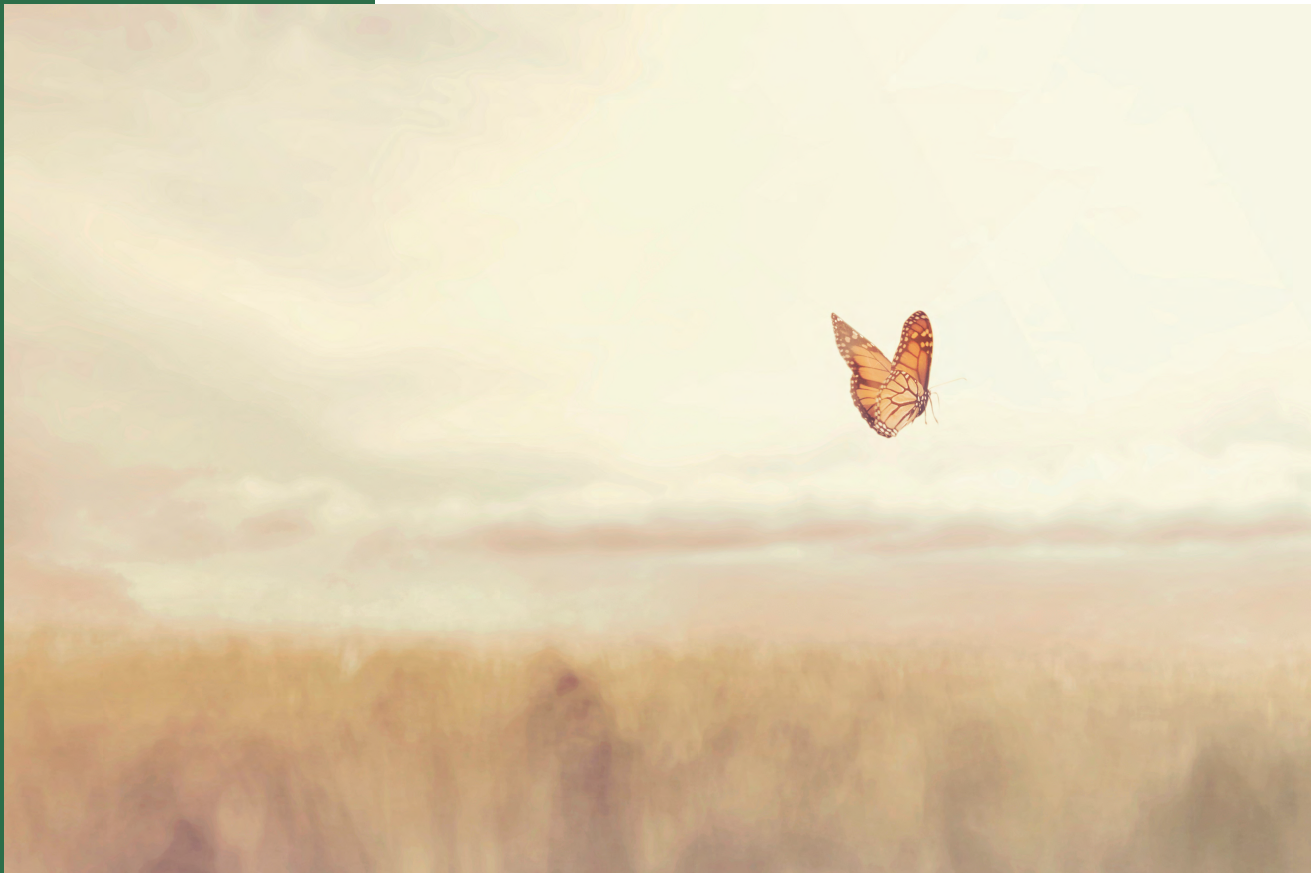
“THE TIME IS
FULFILLED, & THE
KINGDOM OF GOD
HAS COME NEAR;
REPENT, &
BELIEVE IN THE
GOOD NEWS.”

mark 1:15



VHBC *connections*

FEBRUARY 20, 2024



Sacrifice

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Savior, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart*

-Matt Redman

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view
of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your
true and proper worship."*

Romans 12:1



Photo by Lucas Dorion

Ways to spend your time during this Lenten season

- *Bake cookies and take them to your neighbors*
- *Volunteer your time at a women and children's shelter, or call them and see if you can help meet a financial or resource need*
- *Call the church office and ask about ministries you may not know about!*

Suggestions from Erin Moon's *Memento Mori*

February 20, 2024

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Thought of the Day

If you want to help those outside you must add your own little cell to the body of Christ who alone can help them. Cutting off a man's fingers would be an odd way of getting him to do more work.

Passage from *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

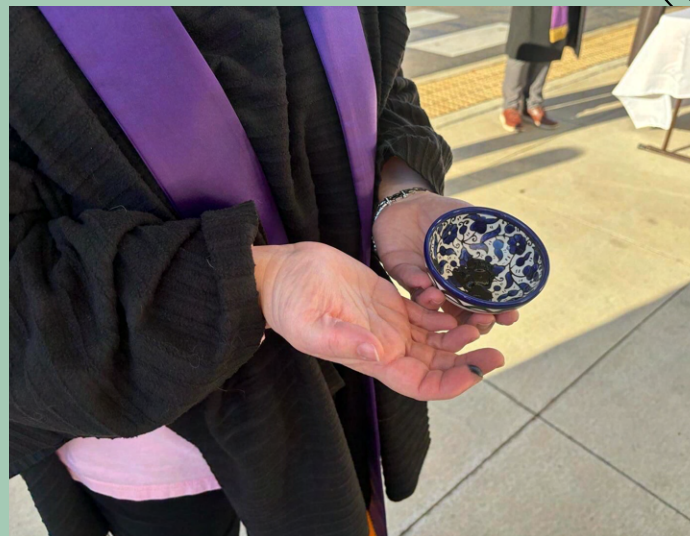
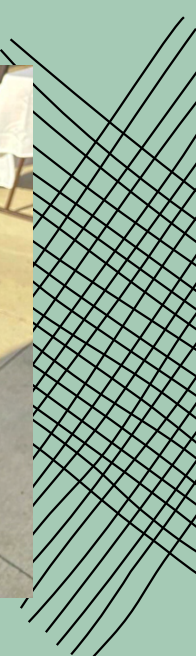


Photo by Brittni Scott



THIS WEEK

- & -

MORE AT VHBC



WED. NIGHT MEALS IN FEB

21st: Cubano Sandwich, Black Bean Soup, & Key Lime Pie
28th: Pan Seared Turkey Patty, Mac & Cheese, Lady Peas, Cornbread Muffin, & Dessert

Reserve your plate online at
vhbc.com/dinneratvhbc

Adults: \$7

Children: \$5

Preschoolers: Free

College Students: Free

MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 am in the Seminar Room

ALL ADULTS WELCOME

Memento Mori: A Lenten Experience by local author and speaker & Bible scholar, Erin H. Moon.

LENTEN ADULT WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Contemplative Prayer at 6 pm in the Chapel
Facilitated by George Van Kirk

Enneagram Workshop: A 4-week study with Jess & Sara Nix at 6 pm in the Seminar Room
February 21 & 28; March 13 & 20

In the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday in Lent

February 21: Beginning our Lenten Journey - Hope in the Wilderness with Noel Forlini Burt

February 28: Choosing the Desert Way by Suzanne Reece

March 6: Youth Week - ***How well do you know VHBC Youth?***

March 13: Continuing Hope in the Wilderness with Noel Forlini Burt

March 20: Hope in the Wilderness with Noel Forlini Burt

March 27: No Wednesday night activities during Holy Week

March 28: Maundy Thursday service at 6 pm

March 29: Good Friday 11 am - 1pm in the Chapel



Great game day with SAM on February 9th in the Fellowship Hall!

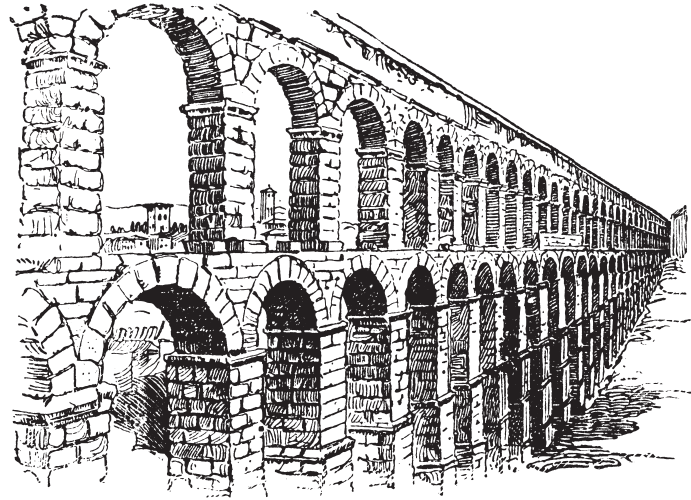
Upcoming event for our SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) this Spring

- Friday, March 8th at 1 pm - Movie Matinee with soda & snacks



SELF- SACRIFICE CHANGES THE WORLD

Diana Severance tells this story of Christian self-sacrifice in Rome. "In 165, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, an epidemic of what is thought to have been smallpox was brought to Rome by troops returning from wars against the Parthians (in modern Iran). The disease decimated the Roman army and spread rapidly throughout the entire Empire. Lasting episodically for fifteen years, it is estimated that 1/4 to 1/3 of the population of the Empire perished.



The noted Roman physician Galen, who described the disease in detail, was in Rome during the first outbreak and fled the city for the country. While Galen fled, Christians remained in the city and cared for the ailing and dying. Mercy and pity were not a virtue among the pagans, but the Christians knew God as a God of mercy. They were to be merciful and love one another, and they showed mercy in caring for others during the plague."

During the season of Lent, we are examining the radical, counter-cultural power of self-sacrifice to change the world. At the heart of this power lies the example Jesus provides for us. As we read in Sunday's epistle reading from 1 Peter 3, "For Christ also suffered for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God." Jesus suffers because Jesus loves us. God's agape, sacrificial love, both sends Jesus to us on earth and to the cross. Jesus' sacrifice invites us to consider how we might serve those around us.

Each Sunday during Lent we will hear faith stories of individuals in our church who serve those on the margins of our community. As they speak of their service, I hope we will all reflect on both where we now serve and where we might serve those in our community.

Here is the schedule:

February 25: We Care Ministry, serving our homebound sacred partners

March 3: Lovelady Center Ministry, helping women rebuild their lives and walk forward with faith-driven hope for the future

March 10: Student Ministry Sunday, highlighting the ways our church serves teenagers

March 17: Firehouse Ministry, serving homeless men in the Birmingham region



Self-sacrifice does not come naturally. Serving those in the margins of society can be difficult, even scary. Yet, Christ's self-sacrifice for us invites us to consider the sacrifices we might make in service to God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

The season of Lent looks to be a great five weeks of worship and spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Easter. I look forward to seeing each of us in worship.

YOU ARE LOVED.

Eric

Baptism ON EASTER SUNDAY

Baptism represents the transformational power of resurrection and symbolizes the meaning of Easter. When we are baptized, we participate in the death of Jesus on Good Friday - as we go under the water - and his resurrection on Sunday - as we come out. Because of this deep connection, for centuries Christian churches have conducted Baptism services on Easter Sunday.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church celebrates this historical and symbolic connection by offering baptism on Easter. We invite anyone who confesses Jesus as their Savior and Lord and has not celebrated believer's baptism to participate. This is also a beautiful opportunity for anyone who wishes to make their first commitment to Jesus as Savior or those who come from other faith traditions which do not practice immersion or believer's baptism.



If you or someone in your family are interested in participating in this meaningful service or want to talk about your spiritual commitment to Jesus, please contact any of our ministers or reach out directly to Eric Spivey (eric@vhbc.com or 205-979-5920).

VHBC

YOUTH

WEEK '24

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH

428 at the Bowl
Join us for outdoor games
at the front of the church
to kick off Youth Week!
Don't forget \$10 for
dinner!

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH

Swing by Bruster's from
3:30-5 pm to
get some ice cream on us!
We will be at the Bruster's
on Montgomery Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH

VHBC Youth is taking over
Wednesday night church! We will
be in the fellowship hall leading
games from 6-7 pm to see how
well our congregation can get
into the mind of our youth!

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH

A day off so our students
can catch up on
assignments, take a shift
at work, or just take a nap
all afternoon!

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 9TH**

A night with the
Birmingham Bulls at
Pelham Civic
Complex, 7 pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH

Movie night and Youth Sunday
prep in the fellowship hall
from 6-9 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Youth Sunday Service
at 10 am

VHBC Youth Banquet
5-7 pm
Fellowship Hall
Wear your tackiest attire and
get ready for basketball
awards, youth week awards,
and senior superlatives!

HOLY WEEK AT VHIBC

MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

Families with children (kindergarten - 6th grade) are invited to process into worship waving palm branches. If you would like your child to participate, please have them meet in the chapel at 9:45 am.

MARCH 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join us for a special Maundy Thursday communion service at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. Laura Tadlock will be preaching. No meal will be served, but child care will be available for preschoolers during the service.

MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY

The Chapel will be open from 11 am to 1 pm. Resources for a self-guided worship experience will be available.

MARCH 30 EASTER EGG HUNT

Children are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn at 10 am! Bring your friends and don't forget your basket.

MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY

All are welcome to join us in our celebration of the risen Christ! Worship begins at 10 am and families are invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross on the lawn. We will also see the newness of life as we display butterflies on the tree in the Foyer.



prayerful REFLECTION



In each newsletter during this Lenten season, we will look at reflections from different authors and theologians.

Today we will read a passage from German Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

God Can Wait

Human beings are the losers; God is the winner. God lets human beings start; he lets them make progress, have success, and seems himself to be totally passive. His countermoves seem rather insignificant, and we seldom notice them at all. So we march forward, proud and self-confident and certain of our success and ultimate victory. But God can wait; sometimes he waits year after year...God waits in the hope that people will finally understand his moves and want to turn their life over to him. But once in every life - perhaps it will not be until the hour of death - God crosses our way, so that we can no longer take a step. We must stop and in fear and trembling recognize God's power and our own weakness and wretchedness...Only in these great moments in our life do we understand the meaning of God's guidance in our life; only then do we understand God's patience and God's wrath. And only now do we recognize that these hours in which God crossed our way are the only hours of real importance in our life. They alone make our life worth living.

Slowly it gets to be a waiting whose outward sense I cannot comprehend; the inward reason must be found daily. Both of us have lost infinitely much during the past months; time today is a costly commodity, for who knows how much more time is given to us?

*from God is on the Cross: Reflections on
Lent and Easter*



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

VHBC CDC SPRING ART SUPPLY COLLECTION!

PLACE YOUR DONATION
IN THE RED BIN

COLLECTING
THROUGH
MARCH

