

VHBC

JANUARY 10, 2023

VOL. 30 ISS. 1

Connections

EASTERN SLOVAKIA

PHOTO BY: ERIC SPIVEY



Be in prayer for Tyler & Eric as they visit with the McNarys this week in Slovakia.

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VHBC Giving

January Budget needed

\$172,882.00

January Offering

\$29,315.00



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THE PRACTICE OF FELLOWSHIP

Happy New Year!

With the arrival of January, we enter the liturgical season of Epiphany. Epiphany began on Friday, January 6 celebrating the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. The word *epiphany* means "a moment of sudden revelation or insight." Epiphany runs until the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is a season of gifts and surprises, offering us opportunities to experience aha moments. During this season, we patiently wait and listen as the Holy Spirit quietly reveals God's gifts to us.

During the season of Epiphany, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will focus on Fellowship Anew. Christian fellowship is more than sitting beside other Christians in worship, more than knowing each other's names and occupations. Fellowship is life together for the sake of the world. Scripture teaches life with Jesus cannot be lived alone!



When we do life together, we break the myth of individualism - the idea we can do life completely on our own. In fellowship, we do the hard work of learning to love each other as Christ loved us.

The practice of fellowship builds on the suffering love of Jesus. By living in fellowship with other Christians, we experience this love of Jesus. Our faith is not a theory or a philosophy. It is a way of life. When we choose to live in fellowship with others, the suffering love of Jesus is not just something we read about. It is something we witness and experience.

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Leaders from the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary spoke about their ministry.

Over the next six weeks I will preach a sermon series from the Epiphany lectionary passages called **Gifts in Community**. Each Sunday, we will explore a different gift of God to our community of faith. These gifts allow us to practice Christian fellowship together.

Also, during the next couple of months, we will have additional opportunities to practice fellowship. The most significant event will be our churchwide retreat at Shocco Springs (1/28-29/2023). There is still room for you! If you are new to our church or have been hesitant to attend, let me encourage you to come do life with us on retreat. We will laugh, cry, pray, worship, and play together. I promise you will come home better connected to our church family than ever before.

In February we will welcome Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Director of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (2/12) as he comes to talk about our connection to other Fellowship Baptists around the country and world. We will also host a moms retreat (2/24-25) and an All-Leaders Retreat (2/26). And then in March, I am excited we will host our first Storytelling event on the evening of March 19.

Lots of great Fellowship events are coming up. However, the best way to practice fellowship at VHBC is through our Sunday Bible study classes. If you are not connected to one of these classes, now is a great time to start. IF you are and have not been attending recently, now is a great time to start back. In a church like this, our Bible study classes become our church - our community of faith.

As you read this, Tyler Johnson and I are in Slovakia touring ministry sites with Dianne and Shane McNary our CBF Field Personnel partners. We will return on Friday night. Our student ministry will travel to Slovakia in June for our IME (International Mission Experience). We look forward to sharing more about this opportunity when we return. I'll see you on Sunday.

You are loved.

Eric



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 RETURN
ON JANUARY 8TH

MONDAYS

428
RETURNS ON
JANUARY 9TH
&
JANUARY 23RD

WEDNESDAYS

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
&
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
LIVE
RETURN ON
JANUARY 4TH

vhbc children's ministry

WORSHIP CARE***

We are so close to filling every spot in our new Worship Care class! Please consider signing up to help us start off the new year with a full roster of Worship Care teachers.

Volunteers can serve once-a-month, once every-other-month, or every fifth Sunday. Serving in Worship Care is a great way to serve in our church and get to know families with young children. Serving in Worship Care is a win-win!

Call Nancy for more info!

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



NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

JAN 15 JAN 22
Jerri Pare' LaRue Gillespie

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

JAN 15
Babies & Ones: Alexis Johnson, Sara McFarland
Twos-K: Brenda Ammons, Jan Deagon

JAN 22
Babies & Ones: Jan Dulin, Stacey Sapp
Twos-K: Dianne Horn, Laura Griffo

WELCOME TEAM

JAN 15/22
Sharon Hartzog
Carolyn Slaphey
Brandi Brownell
Larry Brownell
Dan Caldwell
Chuck Gillespie
LaRue Gillespie
Sharon Repp
Lisa Speegle

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

JAN 15 Craig Youngblood
 Richard Horn
JAN 22 Brent Warren
 Scott Phillips

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP



will meet every 3rd Thursday of each month at Newk's Vestavia. See you January 19th at 11 am!

Please contact Melody Harden or Laura Tadlock for more information.

GAME DAY



hosted by Senior Adult Ministry Team
February 7, 2023
10 am in the Fellowship Hall

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

CBF FIELD PERSONNEL - DIANNE & SHANE MCNARY

Join VHBC as we pray for our CBF field personnel in Slovakia. Prayer guide available in the FH foyer.



BUILDING HOPE WEEKEND

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:

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

WEDNESDAYS

in January

11

JAN

Dinner Menu: Poppy Seed Chicken Casserole, Jasmine Rice, Roasted Veggies, Roll, Dessert

Adult Sessions: **Contemplative Prayer** in the Chapel with George Van Kirk & **The Least of These: Christians and the Poor** in the Fellowship Hall with Scott McGinnis

18

JAN

Dinner Menu: Chicken & Dumplins, Glazed Carrots, Dessert

Adult Sessions: **Contemplative Prayer** in the Chapel with George Van Kirk & **The Least of These: Christians and the Poor** in the Fellowship Hall with Scott McGinnis

25

JAN

Dinner Menu: Baked Ziti, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

Quarterly Business Meeting at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

CHECK VHBC.COM

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

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

Vickie Furr - 1/10/23
Barbara Price - 1/30/23

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Linda Anderson
John Bell
Libby Brown
Joan Crye
Mona Fisher
Sarah Moreland
Jerri Pare'
Gaynell Pinson
Hazel Turner
Kay Worley

HOMEBOUND & WE CARE

Juanita Blackburn	Charlotte Kyser
Libby Brown	Dot Lowe
Ann Bush	Al Lowery
Carolyn Cain	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

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

to Barbara Vandergriff and family in the loss of her brother, Buford Vandergriff on January 10 in Covington, GA.

to the family of Betty Adderhold who passed away on December 30, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Hunter & Evelyn on the birth of their son, Callum McKinney Hill on January 5th. Everyone is doing great!

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

CHURCHWIDE

**ALMOST
THERE!!!**

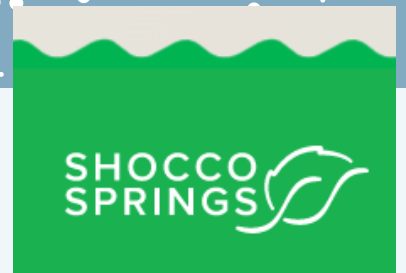
A Retreat Anew

AT SHOCCO SPRINGS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JANUARY 28-29, 2023

**IT'S ALMOST TIME TO
RETREAT ANEW!**

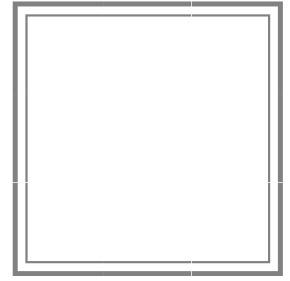


Contact Laura@vhbc.com with any questions or changes to your registration. If you have a retreat balance, there are two ways to pay

- Drop off a check at the church office with Churchwide Retreat in the memo line
- Use the Giving button on the ShelbyNext app or the VHBC website and select Churchwide Retreat



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



FEBRUARY ON WEDNESDAYS

- Voices of Baptist Women in Ministry - Dixie Ford, Valerie Burton, & Megan Doud
- Love Wins by Rob Bell book study with John Chandler
- Ash Wednesday Service

FIND VHBC ONLINE



WATCH
RECENT
SERVICES



CONNECT



STAY UPDATED



IN TUNE WITH VHBC
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SHELBYNEXT



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