

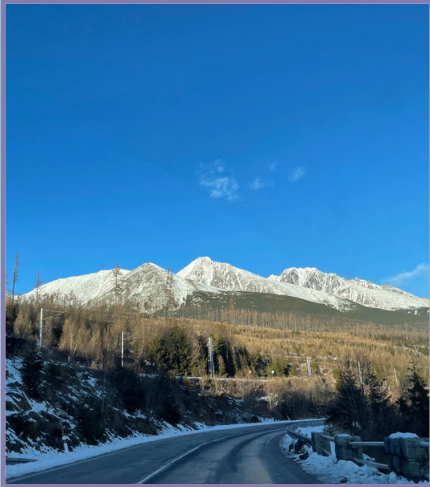
VHBC

JANUARY 24, 2023

VOL. 30 ISS. 2

Connections





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on the cover

L-R: Julia, Tyler, Dianne, Shane, Eric, & Pavel

FIND VHBC ONLINE



Be sure to ask Tyler & Eric about their wonderful trip to visit the McNarys in Slovakia!



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NO ONE PERSON CAN CARE FOR THE CHILDREN OF A CHURCH



by Nancy Akins

Ms. Nancy has been the Children's Minister at VHBC since January 2, 1990.

When given the opportunity to write an article for the church newsletter, what does any children's minister, worth their weight in salt, offer?

Volunteers, of course!

A children's minister eats, breathes, and sleeps recruitment. Why? Because no one person can care for and teach the children at church.

Even when it appears every position is covered and every class has teachers, recruitment continues—for the new class, for the next class, for the summer, for the fall. Recruitment is always spinning around in this children's minister's mind. Always.

The children and families in our church need every adult to participate in children's ministry. Here are ways you can be a part.

BE AWARE.

Be aware of families with young children AND take the extra step of introducing yourself! "Hi! My name is Nancy Akins. Please remind me of your name" or "Hi! My name is Nancy Akins. I don't think we have had the opportunity to meet." As you meet children, say their names aloud. Intentionally meet families on Sunday mornings. Be the person who meets a family in the hallway and then invites them to sit with you in worship!

SIT WITH A FAMILY FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER.

This one takes a little courage, doesn't it?! It's normal and easy to sit with people we know, people who know us, but what about taking one Wednesday night a month to sit with someone else? This practice could be life giving to our congregation.

VOLUNTEER IN WORSHIP CARE.

"I've already done my time." A common response by all of us. But if our church wants to welcome young families, we all need to consider serving in Worship Care, even parents! Worship Care is the care of babies through kindergarteners during Sunday morning worship. Volunteers can serve once a month (just six times a year!), once every other month, or every fifth Sunday. Working in Worship Care is a WONDERFUL opportunity to get to know young families in our church!

VOLUNTEER TO WORK IN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.

VBS is the MOST FUN WEEK at the church! There are SO many ways for adults to participate. From serving as a welcome person to helping in a classroom to providing snacks for teachers to the many, many, many other jobs, VBS is the place to be in June. Don't miss out on this fun and incredibly meaningful time together with every age group in the church!

TEACH IN PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, MISSION FRIENDS, GA, & RAS.

Our ministry to children and families is growing! Consider helping in a classroom now, this summer or fall. A new preschool class starts this February 5th and we still need **one more teacher** for the 8:45 Sunday School hour.

Preschool and children's families need a place in our church and a place is only possible with your help. I hope you will prayerfully consider your part.

Now you are aware of many of the wonderful opportunities in preschool and children's ministry and now you have a glimpse into my heart and calling. Come join me!

With gratitude, Nancy

SANCTUARY WORSHIP ON JANUARY 29, 2023

This Sunday we will be a multi-site worshipping community. Over a hundred of our congregation of all ages will worship at our Retreat Anew in Shocco Springs. Others of us spread around the country will worship via live stream on computers, televisions, and phones. The rest of us will gather in our beautiful Vestavia Hills Baptist Church sanctuary overlooking Shades Valley at 10:00 am. Each place of worship will be unique and special.

In our sanctuary worship, Bill Bugg will lead our music, our choir will sing, and I will be here preaching on the "Gift of Foolishness!" To connect our Fellowship Anew theme of Epiphany, we ask individuals and families to sit in a different seat than normal to introduce yourselves to someone new. We will close off the two outer sets of pews to bring us closer together while part of our church worships in Shocco Springs.

It will be a great day of worship - wherever you participate. I look forward to seeing you there!
You are loved.

-Eric



**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.

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



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

CHILDREN SING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 5th
"Blest Be the Tie"

Children are learning hymns throughout the year during Children's Choir on Wednesday evenings.

CHILDREN WILL GATHER AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY DURING THE PRELUDE, SING THE FIRST STANZA OF THE HYMN, AND RETURN TO THEIR SEATS.

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

JAN 29 FEB 5
Virginia Wood Nancy Akins

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

JAN 29
Babies & Ones: Amy Gillis, Caroline Nordlund
Twos-K: David & Cathy Compher

FEB 5
Babies & Creepers: Laura Tadlock, Sara Taylor
Walking Ones - Threes: Libby Pittman, Rachel Farley
Fours - K: Dan & Gay Caldwell

WELCOME TEAM

JAN 22/FEB 5
Sharon Hartzog
Howard Finch
Brandi Brownell
Larry Brownell
Dan Caldwell
Lauren Hartzog
Cappy Blackwelder
Joe Perez
Fred Olive

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

JAN 29 Mike Craddock
 William Dupree
FEB 5 Julia Duffy
 Barton Duffy

UPCOMING EVENTS

GAME DAY

Save the Date

hosted by Senior Adult Ministry Team

February 7, 2023
10 am in the Fellowship Hall
Register at vhbc.com

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.

THANK YOU

The McMurray family would like to thank our church family for all the love and support shown to us after the death of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Rudy McMurray, on January 1st. We deeply appreciate all the prayers, cards, phone calls and food that have come our way. We have felt loved and cared for.

Thank you so much,
Alynn LeBerte and family
Elizabeth David and family
Dan McMurray and family



VHBC PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND: PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

In the Spring of 2016, the Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) of VHBC was established for the purpose of providing members and friends of our church an additional opportunity to make lifetime and testamentary gifts that would become a permanent endowment for our ministries. Supported by estate and lifetime gifts, the fund makes annual grants for important Mission projects, Ministry activities, and Capital needs that might not otherwise be fully funded through our general operational budget.

The great blessing of contributing to the PEF is the joy of helping the future ministries of our church be bright. A planted seed does not only grow in the future. As the seed sprouts, it immediately begins to contribute to its surroundings. We have inherited a rich tradition at our church, and through a gift to this fund, you can pass this tradition on now and to future generations.

Since its adoption by the church, over 130 families have made gifts to the PEF. Because of the very capable guidance of our PEF Committee, the PEF Investment Committee, our Pastor, Administrative Pastor, and our ministry partners at the WMU Foundation, the fund ended the 2022 year with over \$724,000 in assets.

Since 2018, the PEF has made grants of over \$91,000. During the month of February, the PEF Committee is receiving requests for grants from staff members, organization heads, and committee chairs. The deadline for grant requests is Sunday, March 5. The grants will be presented during the worship service on Anniversary Sunday, May 7.

If you are ready to invest in our church's future, contact the church financial office. You can secure help and more information in a personalized confidential manner from Mike McBrayer and Jamie Ambrose. Also, feel free to contact any member of the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee. The members are: Dennis Anderson (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Kay Wilburn, Roger Bates, Howard Finch, Mike McBrayer, and Eric Spivey.

WEDNESDAYS

in January & February

25

JAN

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

Quarterly Business Meeting at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

1

FEB

Dinner Menu: Mexican Bowl w/ beef or chicken, black beans, spanish rice, salsa, guac, chips, & dessert

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

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.

CHECK VHBC.COM

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

WELCOME WAGON

RONNIE & JANET BREWER



Ronnie and Janet Brewer moved to Birmingham in September. They met while attending the University of Montevallo and married in 1977.

Janet is a retired school librarian and Ronnie is retired after a career as a campus minister and pastor, mostly in Tuscaloosa and Huntsville.

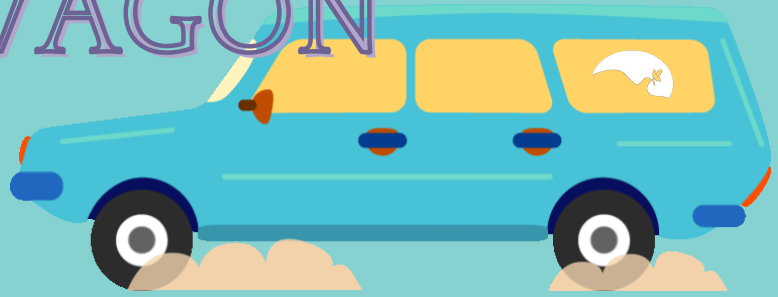
They have two adult children and two Grandsons. The move has allowed them to spend more time with their Grandchildren who live in Vestavia. They are happy to find a church home at VHBC and Janet loves singing in the choir.

JAMES & MARIA MADDEN

James and Maria moved to Birmingham from Jackson, Mississippi in 2014 with 3 month old Mary Hazel for James to take a job in Enterprise Risk Management at Regions.



Maria has a background in counseling and teaching but have stayed at home with their little ones since Mary Hazel was born. Shortly after moving to Birmingham we joined All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood.



That was a wonderful church home for their family for several years, but James and Maria both grew up Baptist and were starting to miss their Baptist roots. In December of 2021 they came to see James's mom, Marianna Madden sing in the choir's Christmas performance. They left that Sunday both having experienced a real sense of peace, and knew that they wanted to continue visiting VHBC. They were so grateful for the warm welcome they received each Sunday, and quickly began to realize that VHBC felt like home for them.

They have five children. Mary Hazel is 9 and is in 3rd grade at Dolly Ridge, Marcia and David are 7 and in 1st grade at Dolly Ridge, and Mason and Brock are 4 and go to preschool at God's House Kindergarten. They spend a lot of their time between soccer fields, gymnastics, and t-ball fields. James and Maria both enjoy running, reading, and cooking when they get some free time.

There are many things they love about VHBC- the children's ministry has been a true gift to their family, as has the Breakfast and the Bible class. They continue to feel immense gratitude to be a part of such a genuine, caring church family.

WELCOME TO THE
VHBC FAMILY!

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

Jerri Pare' - January 26
Kay Worley

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Linda Anderson
John Bell
Libby Brown
Mona Fisher
Gaynell Pinson
Barbara Price
Gay Thomas
Hazel Turner
Kay Worley

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

to the family of Sarah Moreland, who passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2023. A memorial service was held at VHBC on Wednesday, January 18.

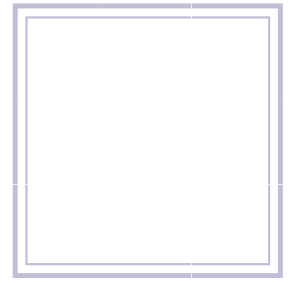
to the family of Carolyn Cain, who passed away on January 14, 2023 in Florida. A memorial service was held on Friday, January 20 at VHBC.

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
BY VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
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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

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Saturday

9:00 am Arrive/Sign In at Bagley Center
9:30 am Large Group Assembly
10:15 am Break
10:30 am Session One in Chapel
11:45 am Lunch at Bagley Center
1:00 pm Session Two in Chapel
2:00 pm Free Time - Relax or choose from organized activities
5:45 pm Dinner at Bagley Center
7:00 pm Large Group Assembly
7:45 pm Break
8:15 pm Variety Show
9:00 pm Bonfire/S'mores Fellowship

Sunday

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Session Three in Chapel
10:00 am Closing Worship
10:45 am Adjourn

During Large Group Assembly:

3s childcare in Lower Level Chapel

During Sessions:

3s childcare in Lower Level Chapel
Pre-K - 1st Grade in Lower Level Chapel
3rd - 6th Grade in Youth Bagley Center



Hello, Retreat Attendees!

We are getting excited to Retreat Anew with you! Community. Fellowship. Discipleship. We will have a bit of it all. The Churchwide Retreat at Shocco Springs is less than a week away, so here are a few reminders as you pack and prepare for this wonderful time of fellowship.

Where: Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center
1314 Shocco Springs Road
Talladega, AL 35160

When: Saturday, January 28 – Sunday, January 29

Time: Arrive at/Check in at 9 am - Follow the signs to Bagley and send someone inside the 1st floor lobby to check-in for keys and your registration packet.

Pack: Your Bible, Comfy Shoes & Clothes