

VHBC Connections



**ADVENT
AT VHBC**
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT VHBC?

NEW WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

start this week! More info on page 8!

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS

Luncheon is this Thursday at 11:30 am for pre-registered participants. Lunch is \$6 per person.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

This Thursday, December 1st, 11 am at Newk's
More info on page 9.

VHBC GIVING

November Budget Needed \$146,768.00
November Offering \$92,550.00

YTD Budget Needed \$1,591,843.00
YTD Offering \$1,447,713.00
Difference (\$144,130.00)

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HAPPENINGS AROUND VHBC!

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MORE TO COME THIS ADVENT SEASON AT VHBC
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SERVICES**



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Advent Worship Events at VHBC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

10:00 AM Hanging of the Green

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

10:00 AM Sanctuary Choir Presents
"New Life, New Hope, New Joy!"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00 AM Children's Choirs
Share in Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 AM Handbells Lead in Worship
4:00 PM Service of Consolation

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 PM Come See the Baby
A Worship Experience for Families with Children

8:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship



THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ERIC SPIVEY

I remember when my vision of worship expanded.

In the 2000's I attended a faith formation conference and heard the words "Worshipful Work" for the first time. Building off the work of Charles Olsen in Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders, the leaders challenged us to envision the work of the church (administrative committees, business meetings, etc.) as worship. In worshipful work, these important church functions become extensions of the liturgy in the sanctuary. Worship expanded for me beyond a sanctuary and a tv screen.

During this season of my ministry, I also realized the word liturgy means "the work of the people."

While we often use the word liturgy to describe the form of our public worship of God, liturgy is expansive. God desires more from us than showing up to observe what takes place on a platform. God want us to offer our whole as living sacrifices – this is our "true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1 NIV). Worship invites our full participation – not only when we gather.

Søren Kierkegaard, a Danish Christian thinker and writer who lived in the 1800s, described this same understanding of worship when he compared worship to a play in his book Purity of Heart. Kierkegaard complains that too often we imagine the minister is the star actor or actress in a play, with the choir and musicians in supporting roles and the congregation in the audience. In fact, he concludes, the congregation is on the center stage doing the work while the minister and choir coach (prompt) us to do our best for God, who is the audience. Our lives become liturgy as we live for an audience of One.

This expanded philosophy of worship extends to my role as preacher in our community of faith. I attempt to release the Living Word of God into our lives for the sake of the world each week through my preaching.

As we sing, pray, read scripture, confess, and listen – we are responding with our lives – doing the work of the people.

This Advent Season we are focused on Worship Anew. Let me invite you to expand your vision of worship. Throughout the month you will find daily worship prompts in the **Journey to Bethlehem Advent Worship Guide**. These prompts invite you to engage with a Christmas carol, pray a breath prayer, reflect on a scripture, practice new disciplines, and participate in God's Kingdom. These prompts offer you the opportunity to do the work of the people each day.

I am so grateful to experience my first Advent as your pastor. I look forward to worshipping with you this month. I hope you will share with me how your own expanded worship practices are going. 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





December Dates to Remember



Come to YOSE on these dates:
12/4 & 12/11

Don't come to YOSE on these
dates: 12/18, 12/25, 1/1/23

Come to WNL on these dates:
11/30, 12/7, 12/14 (Together
for Christmas)

Don't come to WNL on these
dates: 12/21 & 12/28

Twas the Night Before
Christmas Lock-In: 6 pm on
12/16 through 8 am 12/17



VHBC children's ministry UPCOMING EVENTS



GA/RA Caroling

Wednesday,
December 7th
6:15 pm



Sixers at the Alabama Theater

Monday, Dec 19
2 pm

Elf with Ms. Nancy!



Second Sunday Pancakes

Sunday,
December 11th
8:45 am
Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited!

BETHLEHEM MORNING

Sunday, December 4th
8:45 - 9:45 am

Sign the census with
your family, visit the
animals, and enjoy your
morning in Bethlehem!



NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

DEC 4

Mel Crowder

DEC 11

Jay McFarland

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

DEC 4

Babies & Ones: Laura Tadlock, Sara Taylor
Twos-K: Dan & Gay Caldwell

DEC 11

Babies & Ones: Prissy Sumners, Ashley Hattaway
Twos-K: Mary Grace Cox, Shawn Owens

WELCOME TEAM

DEC 4/11

Sharon Hartzog
Carolyn Slappey
Brandi Brownell
Larry Brownell
Dan Caldwell
Lauren Hartzog
Cappy Blackwelder
Joe Perez
Fred Olive

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

DEC 4 Craig Youngblood
Richard Horn

DEC 11 Brent Warren
Scott Phillips



December COLLECTION

Coats and socks for our neighbors at Firehouse Shelter.

A tree will be in the Children's Building for the socks and bins will be placed around the building for men's coats.



NEEDS AROUND THE CHURCH



Looking to clean out those closets? We would love to have your old board games! Missing pieces or broken boxes are perfect. Drop off in the children's foyer.

DONATIONS NEEDED

While you're dropping off games, gather some nice greenery for the Children's Activity Room to drop off on Wednesday, Nov 30 or Thursday, Dec 1. (No branches, please.)



OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY



MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH CBF FIELD PERSONNEL - DIANNE & SHANE MCNARY

We are headed to the US for vacation in December and will be returning to Slovakia with empty bags. What a better way to help the various communities we serve than to provide books in English. Over the years we have provided enough books to various schools to establish respectable English language sections for their libraries. Providing what is requested by teachers ensures the usefulness of these gifts. [Click the link here to donate English books to Slovakia.](#)

NOURISH OUR NEIGHBORS AT FIREHOUSE

Please bring a homemade dessert with a minimum of 12 servings to the church's main lobby by 5:15 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Sign up [HERE!](#)





WEDNESDAYS AT VHBC



Reserve meals for your family online, join our standing reservation list, or come when you can for dinner at 4:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

END OF YEAR MENU

30th: Chicken Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Dessert; Kids: Pizza & Fries

7th: Chili, Mexican Cornbread, Potato Skins, Stuffed Jalapenos, Dessert; Kids: Pizza & Potato Skins

14th: Breakfast Casserole, Bacon, Sausage, Biscuits, Grits, Dessert

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

November 30 & December 7th

Advent Study

with April Robinson
in the Fellowship Hall

Christmas Crafts

with Prissy Sumners
in the Seminar Room

A project each week!

Velvet Trees & Angel Paintings
Register online at vhbc.com

\$20

December 14th

TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS

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



upcoming events

Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, December 1 at 11 am
Newk's Vestavia



Are you caring for a loved one? Are you feeling disconnected from community? Come and join this group hosted by Melody Harden and enjoy support, fellowship, and conversation with other caregivers. Contact laura@vhbc.com or melodypharden@gmail.com for further information.



Please join the Women's Bible study group as we meet 3 weeks around Advent to discuss Tsh Oxenreider's book "Shadow & Light: A Journey into Advent!"

"Advent is not meant to be a season of doing more or having more. Instead, accept the gift of a slow and meaningful season to rest in God's nearness-and ready yourself for the miracle that Christmas brings, year after year." We will meet on Tuesdays at 9:30 am & 6:30 pm; Nov. 29, Dec 6, & 13.

There is no homework or group videos with this study; simply daily devotions which will take us through the Advent season, so our meetings will be discussion based. **Please sign up at vhbc.com.** Books are **\$5** and can be paid for through the form or in the church office.

coming in
January

- Women's Discipleship Small Group: *Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Brown; 7 weeks beginning on Wednesday, January 11th from 5:30-7 pm

Register at vhbc.com and read testimonials and invitation by fellow members

CONNECTED IN PRAYER

IN THE HOSPITAL

Linda Sanders - Brookwood
Libby Brown - Grandview
Jason Cooper - Brookwood CCU

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

WE CARE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Karen Anderson	Susan Lebold
Linda Anderson	Sarah Moreland
John Bell	Leon Nix
Jason Cooper	Gaynell Pinson
Joan Crye	Chandler Smith
Mona Fisher	Gay Thomas
Jim Hall	Kay Worley
Bob & Mavis Hardy	

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
Candy & Paul Huynh - Cambodia

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO

Allison Youngblood and family in the passing of her aunt, Olivia Wells, on November 28.

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

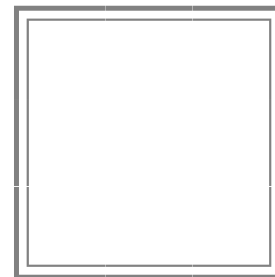


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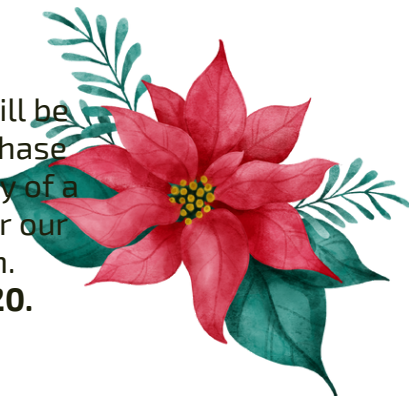
MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR

DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR

LAURA TADLOCK, MINISTRY ASSISTANT

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

Red Poinsettias will be available for purchase in honor or memory of a family member for our Advent season. Each plant is **\$20**.



Peculiar Treasures: a Biblical who's who

"In Peculiar Treasures: a biblical who's who, Frederick Buechner profiles over one hundred Biblical figures – the holiest, the most profane, and everyone in between.

From Jesus to Judas, David to Delilah, and Peter to Pilate, Buechner casts a wry and penetrating eye over the lives of these well-known individuals, drawing out the humanity, sanctity, fragility, complexity, and divinity that has remained hidden to generations of readers."

Buechner brings to life some extraordinary moments in scripture! Available in our church library.

