



VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

VHBC
Connections

JANUARY 19, 2021

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

STAY CONNECTED



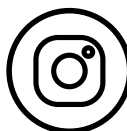
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GIVE ONLINE AT SHELBYNEXT



WORSHIP & PRAY WITH US

Our services remain online only until further notice. Join us every Sunday at 10 am on YouTube, Facebook, or the VHBC Live Stream!

If you'd like to see the prayer list, please visit www.vhbc.com/prayer-list to view and contact us for updates.



STAY UPDATED

CHANGE OF PLANS FOR SENIOR ADULT TRIP!

Please note that the Senior Adult Trip scheduled for May 3-7, 2021 has been changed to September 20-24, 2021. If you have not yet registered, there is still time! This will be an exciting trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island, and Beaufort, SC. Please contact Martha Neill at martha@vhbc.com or call 205-979-5920, if you are interested in attending.

READ THE GOSPELS IN 33 DAYS!

A reading plan for us to read the four gospels together was sent via email on January 4th and is **available to view on our website now**. This is designed for us to read in 33 days. There is a gospel reading of about 3 chapters and a psalm for each day. I encourage you to read the psalm out loud, letting its words be a prayer for you. Let's begin on Tuesday, January 5 as "Day One." By all means, though, don't worry if you miss it. Just pick up the next day.

If you're on Instagram, follow along with us as we post the reading each day!


QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

This Wednesday at 6 pm on ZOOM. An email will be sent out today with the link and agenda. As a part of our quarterly business meeting, the Personnel Committee will be bringing a recommendation related to our pastoral transition.

VHBC GIVING

YTD OFFERING: \$80,823.32

YTD NEEDS: \$101,073.00



SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

Leaving Church

Reinhold Niebuhr was one of the greatest Christian ethicists and theologians of the twentieth century. While many do not know him now, any preacher who has had an education worth anything has read Niebuhr. Several of our Presidents in the past claimed him as an influence. He began his career, though, in a small parish church in Detroit in the 1920s. It was a small congregation, only eighteen families or so, but he ministered among them for thirteen years before leaving for a career of writing and teaching that put him on a larger stage.

At the end of his ministry there, he said, "now that the time has come to sever my connections with the church, I find it almost impossible to do so." (Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic) That sentence says it for every pastor who ever truly allows himself or herself to plant down and love a congregation. I have been interviewed for a few articles recently, and one reporter asked me, "What will you miss the most?" My answer was immediate. "The people, especially children."

When you stay a long time, you have held babies in your arms at the hospital, a day old, and then baptized them, loved them, prayed for them, sometimes long enough to officiate at their wedding. You cry with people, you walk in valleys of unimaginable loss, and you celebrate extraordinary success alongside them. It is a most honored privilege to walk along with you. Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver called it "this odd and wondrous calling."

article cont'...

Sometimes people have said, "I don't know how you do it." I understand what they are saying—it is stressful and tiring to be around so much of the hard parts of human lives. This work never ends. Life is a work in progress, and I am just part of that journey for you. Whether sermon, visit, just a sentence or two on a Wednesday night, or at the grocery store in a chance meeting, this work is always on.

It does indeed wear out a human body and mind, but it also is thrilling. Watching people grow spiritually, overcome their worst failure, or step up into leadership is impossible to convey. Even in death and loss, the privilege of stepping into the Holy of Holies with others, in the place where only God can help, is indescribable. People, hands down, are the best part of all.

So why leave it? Well, I can only say one day, you know. It is time that someone like me when I was thirty-eight and walked up here that first Sunday will be called here. That was one of the greatest days of our lives, and we have been blessed beyond every expectation. It is time to step back, redirect, do some other things. You know me enough to realize I will find new chapters of ministry and calling. A church is a precious family, and sometimes you move from parent to grandparent. You can still love the children but raising them is not your job anymore.

This is an emotionally hard time to step aside because of the limits of being together, but we will find ways to see each other and say things. We will continue to belong to this church as it is appropriate and timely to do so. And you have great leaders here. Trust in each other. It is a changing time, and what God has up ahead will be great. This is a wonderful, healthy church.

article con't...

I have done all that I was able to do. And you are fortunate indeed that you got my incredible wife in the process. There is nothing I have done that would have been possible without Vickie Johnson Furr. She is the most admirable and talented person I have ever known. So, with profound gratitude, we will enjoy these weeks. Your leadership has been working on a process for the interim time. You will be okay. You have a solid and wonderful staff. Help them, hold them up, pray for them. I love you all and look forward to great days ahead.

Now, we have six weeks ahead and work to do. Let's treasure the time together we have!

Gary





v h b c kids

WINTER 2021

Sunday School for Kindergarten through 6th grade starts back this coming Sunday, January 10th on Zoom!

- 9AM**
- Kindergarten with Gilda Coker and James Carr
 - 3rd Grade Class with Marie & Leigh Gwathney
 - 4th/5th Grade Class with Liz David and Jenny Henry
 - Sixers with Lucas Dorion and Mindy Bodenhamer

- 9:30AM**
- 1st/2nd Grades with Sandra Bates and Gay Caldwell

GA & RAs Wednesday Schedule

- 5PM**
- 1st - 2nd Grade GA

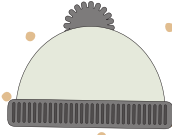
- 5:30PM**
- 3rd - 6th Grade GA

- 6PM**
- 1st - 3rd Grade RAs

- 6:30PM**
- 4th - 6th Grade RAs



WINTER



small's

SUNDAYS



7TH GRADE @ THE
TAYLORS' HOUSE



8TH-9TH GRADE @
THE JAQUESSES'
HOUSE



10TH GRADE @ THE
MCGINNISES' HOUSE



11TH-12TH GRADE @
THE MCFARLANDS'
HOUSE

2
PM

youth schedule

MEMBERS AT HOME

Maxine Ammons	Al Lowery
Karen Anderson	Samson Mathangani
Libby Brown	Grayson Moran
Zelle Buckner	Sarah Moreland
Carolyn Cain	Leon Nix
Mike Chandler	Margaret Northrup
Geri Dodson	June Ousley
Paul Edfeldt	Gaynell Pinson
Esther Evans	Alicia Stigler
Milton Fullman	Hazel Turner
Jim & Natalie Garland	Stan & Sue Virciglio
Mavis Hardy	Margaret Walker
Richard Horn	Bobbye Weaver
Charlotte Kyser	Doris Wilson

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Prissy Sumners and family in the passing her father-in-law, Clyde Sumners on January 12th.

The family of Ken Penuel in his passing on January 12th in Dothan, AL.

The family of Drew Dorris in his passing on January 17th.

The family of Sam Brown in his passing on January 17th. A family-only service will be streamed next week.

prayer list

thank you, church family

Thank you to all that have called and sent cards with words of condolences after Don's death. It is very much appreciated. He loved his church. **Maxine Ammons & Family**



*THANK YOU,
VHBC*

Dear Vestavia Hills Baptist Church,
I came out of retirement as an RN to back to our community during these difficult times. Working at the COVID testing site at UAB is challenging, but rewarding. I feel very blessed to be in good health to help others. When I arrived at work in December and was given the gift card from your church, I felt even more blessed. Thank you so much. You are so kind.

Joan Stelling, RN

