

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1

---

**VHBC**  
*Connections*

---

JANUARY 5, 2021

**VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**

# STAY CONNECTED



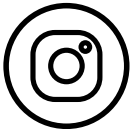
FIND US ONLINE AT [VHBC.COM](http://VHBC.COM)



WATCH RECENT SERVICES &  
MESSAGES ON YOUTUBE



STAY UPDATED ON OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE



CONNECT WITH US ON INSTAGRAM



LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST



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 [here](#) to view and contact us for updates.

# SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

# Christ Alone

We begin this new year together, reading the **gospels** and **Psalms**.

I set this out for several reasons.

First, it is important to ground whatever we do in the Bible.

For all our arguments about the Bible, Baptists and other Christians always admit—the Bible is above any other book. It is our book, it tells our story, and it furnishes us with a treasure trove of things to live by, think about, and believe.

Above all, it tells the story of Jesus. Too often, our hurry to focus on the cross and resurrection and what happens after that can tempt us to ignore what Jesus taught, his earthly life, and his example for us. The gospel IS Jesus. Our evangelism is, at its core, pointing people to Jesus. I saw a statement by Beth Moore, a Christian speaker, who simply posted, “Christ alone.” That felt powerful to me. Immediately under, a fellow wrote, “Yes. And certainly not...” and listed his political opinion. To which I replied, “Once you say, ‘and certainly not,’ it begins to die the death of a thousand qualifications.”

Jesus is the center, the beginning, the measure of all we say and do. We certainly fail Him, too often ignore Him, and are guilty of believing He always agrees with us. But at the least, our focus should be on Him.

And I added the Psalms for a simple reason. The Psalms are the only “prayerbook” in the Bible. From one end to the other, they preserved the words and songs and confessions of the ancient people of God in Israel. It was the book Jesus prayed with His family. And it is a book that can teach us to pray.





So today (Tuesday), let's go on this journey together. Thirty-three days will take us through all four gospels, mostly three chapters at a time. As a suggestion, perhaps you might read the gospel selection, then spend a few moments of quiet prayer, listening for the words that spoke to you in what you just read. Pray about the needs of the day, asking for God's guidance for you, and end by reading the Psalm out loud. When you do that, you hear the words of all the faithful of ages being spoken in your own voice.

Amid this time, perhaps this can be "an anchor" for us, a rock on which to stand. When our minds are so full of anxious thoughts, stressful responsibilities, and bombarded with confusing messages and disinformation, you may count on these words. I look forward to this journey together. The time of day does not matter, but consistency does.

Don't worry too much about understanding everything. Jot down thoughts you might want to come back to later if you wish. For those with children, listen for a verse or story or part of a verse that is simple and speaks to them. Perhaps you can, as a family, talk about it together sometime in the day. And above all, listen. Try to open your heart to hear something new. I promise it is worth your time.

For access to this new reading journey in 2021, please see the next page for information and visit our website at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)!



Granny



# 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](mailto: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!

---

## VHBC GIVING IN 2020

Thank you so much for your faithful giving in 2020!

**2020 YTD OFFERING: \$1,833,369.40**

**2020 YTD NEEDS: \$1,741,360.00**



# 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 Nancy Akins
- 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 start back on Wednesday night, January 13th.

**5PM**

- 1st - 2nd Grade GA

**5:30PM**

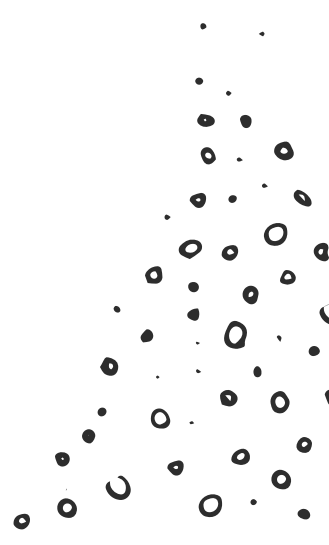
- 3rd - 6th Grade GA

**6PM**

- 1st - 3rd Grade RAs

**6:30PM**

- 4th - 6th Grade RAs



## MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

Richard Horn Brookwood  
Paul Edfeldt STVHS  
Mary Knight STVHS

## MEMBERS AT HOME

Maxine Ammons	Charlotte Kyser
Harper Bates	Al Lowery
Luke Binet	Samson Mathangani
Clint Brooks	Sarah Moreland
Sam & Libby Brown	Leon Nix
Zelle Buckner	Margaret Northrup
Carolyn Cain	June Ousley
Mike Chandler	Gaynell Pinson
Geri Dodson	Alicia Stigler
Esther Evans	Hazel Turner
Milton Fullman	Stan & Sue Virciglio
Jim & Natalie Garland	Margaret Walker
Mavis Hardy	Bobbye Weaver
Ruford Hodges	Doris Wilson

Prayer List

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

David Philpot & family in the death of his father, Jim Philpot on Wednesday, December 15th, and his mother, Caroline Philpot on Friday, December 25th.

Rachel Jordan & family in the death of her mother, Ree McIntosh on Tuesday, January 5th.

*thank you church families*

I just wanted to thank everyone for all of the cards, phone calls, and other remembrances during this Christmas season. A special thank you to the children's and We Care ministries. Also, thank you to my nephew, Deacon Craig Youngblood, for bringing the Communion Cup. Being in the nursing home is hard enough and adding the Covid threat into that really can try a person. All of your continued prayers are greatly appreciated. My prayers are also said for my Church and my Church Family. Love and good health to all, **Esther Evans**

# THANK YOU, ELISE!



After 2 ½ years of invaluable ministry, Elise Pittman leaves our church staff to focus on her full-time work with the Mountain Brook School District. Elise joined us in 2019 when we were in great need of a leader to shepherd our Student Ministry in the interim. During that year, she brought great energy and thoughtful attention to her work with students as she recruited teachers, organized camps and retreats, and taught Bible study. Once we had a new Student Minister in place, Elise shifted her efforts to include; managing our mission partnerships and assisting across the board with our discipleship ministry. She always brought the best spirit and attitude to every task, along with her considerable talents and insight. Her ministry among us has produced much fruit, and we are very grateful to Elise for offering her gifts to our church in such a meaningful way. We also look forward to continuing in ministry with Elise as she remains an active member of VHBC.

