

March 8, 2022 | Volume 29 Issue 5

VHBC Connections



Vestavia Hills
Baptist Church
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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Ukrainian Refugee Offering

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, for the end of war, for the afflicted to be comforted, and for peace and justice to prevail. We give thanks to God for those who are giving hands on support to the Ukrainian people, including the churches of Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Your gifts to date to the Ukrainian Refugee Offering of \$5750.00 are already at work through our partners, Shane and Dianne McNary. The McNarys are grateful to be in a position to support the work of churches in Poland and Slovakia as they respond to those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

[Give Online Here](#)

Note "Ukraine Offering" with your gifts or give through Shelby Next and designate the Ukraine Offering.





Worship
with us!

Weekly Schedule at VHBC

Sunday

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:45 am | Bible Studies for All Ages |
| 10:00 am | Worship |
| 5:00 pm | YOSE - Youth on Sunday Evening |

Wednesday

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 7:00 am | Prayer Breakfast on ZOOM |
| 4:45 pm | Fellowship Dinner until 5:45 pm |
| 5:00 pm | Handbells |
| 5:30 pm | Children's Choirs |
| 6:00 pm | Youth Activities |
| 6:15 pm | Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir |

Online Calendar at vhbc.com

Welcome Dr. Eric Spivey as VHB's new Senior Pastor

We are excited to announce the call of Dr. Eric Spivey as Senior Pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church on February 27, 2022.



Dear Vestavia Hills Baptist Church,

What a wonderful weekend of getting to know you and being called to be your pastor. Thank you for the abundant expressions of kindness. Marcia and I are overwhelmed and grateful.

We will see you on Easter Sunday, April 17th!
What a fantastic way to celebrate the resurrection.

Our first task as pastor and church is getting to know you one another. I hope to get to know you and your family during the transition before I arrive in April. Below, you will find my contact information and social media accounts. Let me encourage you to introduce yourself in a fun way through any of these connecting points. Ideas include texting me a funny picture or video introducing your family, sending me your contact information for my phone, or befriending/following me on social media.

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In the days ahead, I covet your prayers as I say goodbye to my church in Gainesville, begin the work of moving, and prepare for our ministry together. Marcia and I will see you in April.

You are already loved!

Pastor Eric

Cell Phone: 706.499.9999
Email: etspivey@gmail.com
Instagram: @revericspivey
Facebook: @eric.spivey
Twitter: @ericspivey
TikTok: @ericspivey2



Sundays at VHBC

Sunday Morning Bible Study begins at 8:45 am!

- 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.

Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10 am!

- 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.

COVID Response at VHBC

- With the recent decreases in transmission and test positivity rates in our community, the COVID Response Committee is shifting its guidance to **masks encouraged** for activities at the church.
- It's our hope that these trends continue as we experience this exciting time in the life of our church.

Wednesdays at VHBC

Wednesday Night Dinners

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at vhbc.com to reserve your meal!

Menu for March 9th

Adults/Youth: Nashville Hot Chicken or Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Steak Fries, Crunchy Coleslaw, Dessert

Kids: Same as Adult Menu

Menu for March 16th

Adults/Youth: Chicken & Dumplings, Sweet Peas, Buttered Carrots, Roll, Dessert

Kids: Chicken Nuggets, Fries, Dessert

Wednesday Sessions for Adults

- March 9th - Lenten Evening of Prayer (three ways to experience prayer) Lenten Prayer Journey with Rev. Suzanne Reece in the Fellowship Hall, Contemplative Prayer with George Van Kirk in the Chapel, and Prayer Beads Workshop with Nancy Akins in the Seminar Room.
- March 16th - Contemplative Prayer with George Van Kirk continues in the Chapel and Kristie Chandler will begin a series entitled "Fixer Upper-Relationship Renovations" in the Fellowship Hall. Both seminars will continue until April 6th.
- March 23rd - Before Wednesday sessions, Gary Furr will be speaking about his new book, Shadow Prayers and signing books.

A Note of Thanks

from the VHBC Personnel Committee

The members of the Personnel Committee would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and joyful congratulations to Mike McBrayer on his twenty years of service to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

Mike, Melissa, and young son, Luke (Maggie had not yet been born) came to VHBC for Mike to assume the responsibilities of the Minister to Students. It takes a special calling to minister to teenagers and young adults, and Mike was able to do this with real gifts. He was called to shepherd them to a secure foundation in faith and church. Many of the students who were a part of the youth group have become adults who are still serving in multiple roles in this church. Under his leadership, we have seen the youth and students learn to speak with poise and confidence from the pulpit and become leaders in the student ministry and the church beyond these walls.

In September 2013 the church called Mike to be the Minister of Discipleship and Missions which enlarged his responsibilities to include adults. Through the last nine years he has led adults and students to serve in international mission opportunities, as well as serving locally and nationally in sharing God's love. Mike and Melissa have been actively involved in the Alabama Baptist Cooperative Fellowship and its outreach to the people of Perry County, and many of us have been with them in this worthy ministry.

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Because of his mature faith, commitment, and preaching, in 2019 the church again called on Mike, this time to serve as the church's Administrative Pastor, following the retirement of Dennis Anderson. During these last three years, Mike has been challenged to restructure the roles of key office staff, implement new software for the church's computer system, and work in a new role with other ministerial staff. In 2021 when the COVID pandemic reached Alabama and threatened the health of gathered people, Mike effectively planned how to best keep the church members, employees, child development staff, and children safe. Additionally, as Gary Furr retired as our pastor in 2021, Mike became the senior staff person. Mike has served with wisdom, faithfulness, and care during this time.

We know that Mike has had the helpful and constructive support of Melissa, Luke, and Maggie throughout the last 20 years, and those of us on the Personnel Committee want to express our deep gratitude to each of them and our hope for many more years together.

Sincerely,

VHBC Personnel Committee

Roger Bates, Chair Brandon Hughey Leigh Collier



Thanks from Mike McBrayer

Thank you for the recognition of my twenty years at VHBC. Ministry here is rich and meaningful due to the dedicated and gifted membership, ministers, and staff with whom I have the privilege to work alongside. Melissa, Luke, Maggie, and I are so grateful to be a part of your fellowship; serving with you continues to be a great blessing. We appreciate the cards, kind words, and the love offering you collected.

The McBrayers are excited for what lies ahead for our church, and we very much look forward to entering this next season with you.

Special Events



HENRY WHITE DAY

Sunday, March 13th

We will be recognizing Henry during worship this Sunday morning, celebrating his many years of service. All are invited to stay after the service for a special lunch reception in the Fellowship Hall!

THANKFUL FOR 15 YEARS WITH BETH MCGINNIS!

It is a joy to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the faithful ministry of Beth McGinnis as organist of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.



Through her skillful playing, thoughtful worship offerings, and collaborative and gracious spirit, Beth blesses us in so many ways. Her work as organist has always been an outgrowth of her first being a member of the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church faith community. Beth's family—Scott, William, and Kate—are woven into the fabric of our church too and their bonds with us are a gift. We give thanks to God for Beth McGinnis. Worship on **Sunday, March 20**, will include a recognition of Beth and her ministry among us.

d365

Journey to the Cross +

d365.org, a daily devotional website, will offer a Lenten meditative thought and prayer for each day, March 2nd through April 17th.

VHBC KIDS

Winter
'22



MS. NANCY

Sunday Worship Care Schedule

3/13

Babies & Ones: Millie Ehrett, Sharon Hartzog
Twos - K: Kevin Jaquess, Isabel Jaquess
Reception Desk: Brenda Ammons

3/20

Babies & Ones: Alexis Johnson, Sara McFarland
Twos - K: Emily Key, Brenda Ammons
Reception Desk: Jerri Pare'

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm
Children's Choir
Rehearsal

5:45 pm
Childcare for babies-3s.

6:15 pm
Mission Friends,
GA, & RAs

Help
NEEDED

Extra help is needed for Easter Sunday Worship Care. Please contact Nancy (nancy@vhbc.com) to sign up!

Second Sunday Pancakes Mar 13th at 8:45 am

For where your **TREASURE**
is, there your **HEART** will
be also.

Matthew 6:21



vs coming soon!
june 13-16, 2022



VHBC YOUTH

Sundays

9 am Bible Study in the Student Building
5 pm YOSE (Youth on Sunday Evenings)

Mondays

4 pm 428 on March 21st

Wednesdays

5:30 pm 10-12 graders Firehouse Shelter March 9th/
6:00 pm WNL in the Youth Lounge
6 pm Wednesday Night Live on March 16th

Special Events

VHBC Youth Basketball at Mtn. Brook Baptist

March 8th - VHBC vs. St. Luke's Episcopal
8:30 pm (FINAL FOUR Playoffs)

March 15th - VHBC vs. TBD

Stay Connected

FIND US ONLINE

at vhbc.com

WATCH RECENT SERVICES

and other updates on [YouTube](#)

STAY UPDATED ON

our [Facebook](#) page

CONNECT WITH US

on [Instagram](#)

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

[In Tune with VHBC](#)

GIVE ONLINE

on the ShelbyNext app or vhbc.com

HAVE YOU CHOSEN YOUR FIRST BRACKET OF HYMN FAVORITES?

Check out the table by the sanctuary and grab a bracket sheet each week! Circle your pick from two hymns in each bracket. The hymn with the most votes from each match-up moves on to the next round the following week.

The winning hymn will be sung in worship on April 3rd!

Prayer List

MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

MEMBERS IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Linda Anderson	Chriss Doss	LaRue Speights
Don Baker	Jerri Pare'	Marilyn Tinnermon
John Bell	Barbara Price	Linda Whitt
Jenna Cassese	Eddi Riley	
Jason Cooper	Charles Serio	

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Maxine Ammons	Sandy Gillis	Leon Nix
Juanita Blackburn	Bob & Mavis Hardy	Margaret Northrup
Libby Brown	Ruford Hodges	Gaynell Pinson
Ann Bush	Peggy Jones	Jerry & Lorelle Singleton
Carolyn Cain	Charlotte Kyser	Alicia Stigler
Esther Evans	Dot Lowe	Hazel Turner
Milton Fullman	Al Lowery	Bobbye Weaver
Jim & Natalie Garland	Samson Mathangani	Doris Wilson
Pat Gillespie	Kitty Newell	

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Erin Burton and family in the passing of her mother, Sally Reilly on March 3, 2022.

Lottie Jacks in the passing of her sister, Lillie "Tiny" Douglas on March 3, 2022.

Lyn Cone and family in the passing of her father, Paul Cone on March 7, 2022. Arrangements will be on Friday, March 11, 2022 at Elmwood Cemetery. Visitation at 1 pm, followed by a graveside service at 2 pm.

PLEASE SEND UPDATES TO THE CONTACTS BELOW

☎ 205-979-5920 ✉ martha@vhbc.com

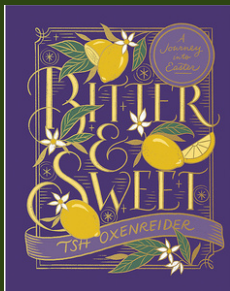
DAILY UPDATES CAN BE FOUND AT [VHBC.COM/PRAYER-LIST](https://www.vhbc.com/prayer-list)

Stay Updated

TIME CHANGE SUNDAY

Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD this Sunday morning, March 13th at 2 am.

LENTEN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Beginning, today March 8th, join us for Women's Bible Study as we journey together through Lent toward Easter. Groups will meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am and Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We will use Tsh Oxenreider's book *Bitter and Sweet* as our devotion and guide.

HOMEMADE DESSERTS NEEDED!

Fresh homemade desserts needed to send to the Firehouse Shelter on serve days in March, April, & May. Please contact Merryl Cooper to sign up! Email merryl_cooper@yahoo.com or call 205-602-9984.

EASTER FLOWERS!

You are invited to help us adorn the sanctuary with beautiful hydrangea plants for Easter Sunday. You may wish to purchase one or more, in honor or in memory of someone.

Each plant is \$20. Please contact Martha (martha@vhbc.com) or 205-979-5920 by April 10th to reserve a hydrangea.

BLOOD DRIVE IN APRIL

VHBC is hosting a Blood Drive with the Red Cross on April 3, 2022 from 9 am - 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All Blood Types Needed! Click the link [here](#) to schedule your appointment.

A field of sunflowers in full bloom, with a warm sunset sky in the background. The sunflowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with their bright yellow petals and dark brown centers clearly visible. The background shows a soft, golden glow from the setting sun, with some trees and a distant horizon line.

VHBC Ministry Team

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS

MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR

BILL OWEN, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP