A still life composition featuring autumn-themed items. In the center is a large, round wooden cutting board. To its left is a wooden spoon. Scattered around are several apples: one red and yellow, one bright green, and another red and yellow. There are also several yellow and orange autumn leaves. A ball of light brown twine is in the upper right. The background is a dark, textured surface.

# VHBC Connections

NOVEMBER 10, 2020  
VOL. 27 ISS. 23

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SADRA & DORA!

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WORSHIP @ VHBC &  
STAY CONNECTED

Join us



on ZOOM

**QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

**Wednesday,  
November 11th  
6 pm**

# Thank you

for your faithful service to VABC!



After 49 years of faithful service to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, **Sadra Dudley** announces her retirement. There is no adequate way to express all that Sadra has meant to us. She retires having invested the most years of any staff member in our fellowship and one who has poured her very self into ministry among us. Since 1972, Sadra has been a pillar of consistency as our church has navigated changes in pastoral leadership, reconstruction, expansion of facilities, natural disasters, and the evolution of congregational ministry.

We are so grateful and altogether better people for having been blessed and cared for by Sadra. Her patience, dedication, and passion for serving the church are an enduring legacy and encouragement to all who have known her ministry.

**Dora Samuel** concludes over 20 years of service alongside Sadra as an exceptional partner in ministry and a delightful presence on our staff. She has been a reliable and invaluable contributor who we could always count on to assist where needed. Her steadfast care for things behind the scenes has enabled countless ministries to succeed. Throughout the years, she has brought a spirit of encouragement, lightheartedness, and generosity to our team.



Sadra Dudley and Dora Samuel have faithfully offered their talents in service of Christ's church and to the members of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. We give thanks to God for the privilege of sharing in service with them.

**A Drive-Up reception** will be held for Sadra and Dora on Sunday, **November 15 from 3:00-4:00 pm**. There will also be a time of recognition for them in the online worship service that same day. **A special love offering may be made online or by calling the church office.**

# SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR



## CELEBRATION OF FAITHFUL SERVICE THIS SUNDAY!

On Sunday morning, we will air a recording of a special presentation and recognition of Sadra Dudley and Dora Samuel. Sadra has been with us for nearly 49 years. For perspective, your pastor was 17 years old and about to graduate high school when Sadra started working here! She has fed hundreds of preschoolers and prepared—even conservatively calculating, in 49 years—between 2000 and 3000 Wednesday evening suppers, plus banquets, Christmas banquets, funeral luncheons, and special gatherings.

If a church is identified by its spaces, then the sanctuary (Worship and prayer), classrooms (education and discipleship), children and youth spaces (spiritual formation and discipleship), choir room (music and worship) are expressions of who we are. And the great meeting place where fellowship is deepened is the Fellowship Hall. Fellowship means a relationship in Christ. Sadra said to me that what she loved the most were the people of this church, seeing you every week, serving you, asking about your day. She and Dora prayed for you, loved your children, and fed you when you grieved, celebrated anniversaries, hosted receptions for brides and grooms, and fed little ones after Vacation Bible Schools. We owe them a great debt of thanksgiving.

We will honor them with a **drive-by reception time this Sunday from 3-4 pm**, but I want to invite you to **join me in giving to the love offering for Sadra and Dora**. You may give online or a check to the church office. This Sunday will be our moment to thank two helpers who have done so much for us for so long.



## REFLECTIONS ON A MOMENT OF CHANGE

Elections are hard-fought, and feelings are strong. We still see deep differences in the United States. But the day after the election, I asked myself, “**What will I do differently today?**” And my answer was, “**I will do the same as every day.**” Ed Stetzer, a professor at Wheaton University, has said recently, “A divided nation needs a united church.” The call to the church to faithfully share and live its gospel message is the same.

In this time of differences, there is also the opportunity to see past them to places of connection, of mutual help, of faithful service. Our mission is the same. It is tempting to be pulled away from our primary calling in the chaos of the moment. The hungry still need to be fed, the gospel still needs to be preached, the broken-hearted need to be healed, and the scriptures need to be taught and understood. We still are navigating a pandemic and trying to keep work, church, family, and school going. Stay the course. Jesus reminded us in **Mark 12:29-31**:

Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”





# vhbc kids

## THIS FALL

VHBC Kids' Sunday school meetings will continue on Zoom and Wednesdays, GA & RAs will meet. Check out the times & leaders for each group below!

### **sunday school**

9AM

- Kindergarten with Gilda Coker and James Carr
- 1st/2nd Grades with Sandra Bates and Gay Caldwell
- 3rd Grade Class with Leigh Gwathney and Marie Gwathney
- 4th/5th Grade Class with Liz David and Jenny Henry
- Sixers with Lucas Dorion and Mindy Bodenhamer

### **wednesday nights**

5PM

- 1st & 2nd GA with Sara McFarland and Ashley Bates

5:30PM

- 3rd - 5th GA with Kristy Carr, Lisa Speegle, and Nancy Akins

6:30PM

- 1st - 3rd RAs with Matt Hutcheson, Brandi Brownell, and Larry Brownell
- 4th - 6th RAs with Jan Deagon, David Philpot, and Dave McPherson



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

## SUNDAY

### YOSE 6-7 PM

is moving INDOORS for the remainder of the year!  
Let's meet in the sanctuary & and then split into small  
groups throughout the church.

Dinner provided!

## WEDNESDAYS



### Wednesday Night Live

6:00-7:00 pm

## SPECIAL EVENT

Movie Monday on

November 16th

6:00-8:00 pm

\* No youth activities on \*  
November 25th & 29th.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR  
PASSPORT SIGN UPS!**



# BETHLEHEM ~~MORNING~~ AFTERNOON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29  
3-4:15 pm

Families are invited to come by the church to pick up items for celebrating the **Advent Season**. Stop by the children's foyer for a family photo and then pick up items from tables around the outside of the building. Let Nancy know if you prefer your items to be brought to your car. Please wear a mask.

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SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 6TH  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**@ VHBC**  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TO HELP COMBAT A NATIONWIDE BLOOD DEMAND, WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TO HOST A BLOOD DRIVE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

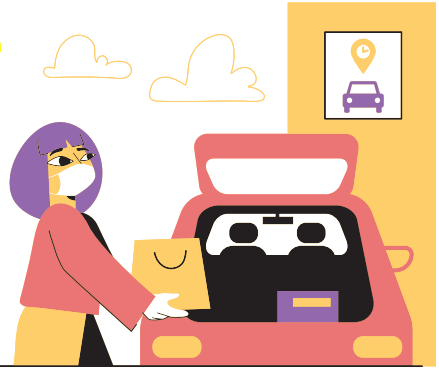
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [VHBC.COM](http://VHBC.COM) TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TO DONATE BLOOD!



## Wednesday Night Takeout continues on November 18th!

Pre-order & pay online at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com) for our next curbside meal! November 18th: Lasagna, tossed salad, French bread. Each meal is \$6 and can be picked up in the back parking lot from 5-5:30 pm.

Our December curbside dates are **Dec. 2nd and Dec. 16th.**



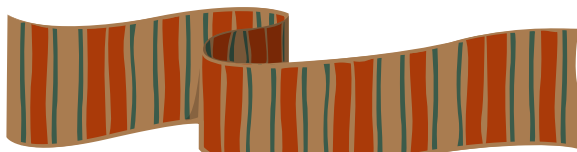
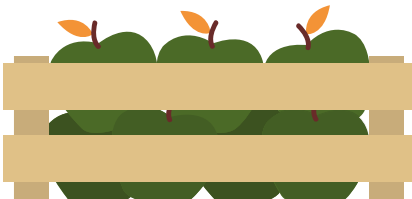
## Have you listened to our new podcast yet?

"In Tune with VHBC" is a weekly podcast about music and worship at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. Episodes will explore hymns we sing in worship and feature interviews with participants in Music Ministry ensembles.



## SENIOR ADULT TRIP MAY 3-7, 2021

Save the date! We have rescheduled our 2020 trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island, & Beaufort, SC. Please call or email Martha at the church office to make a reservation. Double-occupancy price is \$549/each and single-occupancy is \$728. For more information, please contact John Bell at 205-822-6983.



# Prayer List

## MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

Mike Chandler UAB 5211

Daniel Mathangani Grandview MICU 534

Lottie St. John Surgery 11/19 Grandview

## MEMBERS AT HOME

Don & Maxine Ammons

Leon Nix

Sam & Libby Brown

Margaret Northrup

Zelle Buckner

June Ousley

Carolyn Cain

Gaynell Pinson

Geri Dodson

Alicia Stigler

Mike Dulin

Marilyn Tinnermon

Paul Edfeldt

Hazel Turner

Millie Ehrett

Stan & Sue Virciglio

Esther Evans

Margaret Walker

Milton Fullman

Betty Wallis

Jim & Natalie Garland

Bobbye Weaver

Elene Griffith

Doris Wilson

Mavis Hardy

Ruford Hodges

Charlotte Kyser

Samson Mathangani

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The family of Grace Oliver who passed on November 1st.

The family of Nora Ousley who passed on November 3rd. There will be an online service on Tuesday, December 1st at 11 am.

Gary Ousley, son of Lee and Nora, died Monday, November 9th in the Virgin islands after a long battle with cancer.





# IN-PERSON WORSHIP

AT VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

## SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

Registration for our in-person worship services is open every Monday-Saturday prior to the worship date. Spaces are limited, so visit [VHBC.com](http://VHBC.com) and click **REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP** to sign up today!

## VHBC GIVING

MTD Budget Offering: **\$49,957.46**

MTD Budget Needs: **\$66,975.38**

YTD Budget Offering: **\$1,401,450.61**

YTD Budget Needs: **\$1,495,783.50**

## STAY CONNECTED



Visit [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com) and click the stay connected button to find updates for our [prayer list](#), online worship schedule, our new [podcast](#), [ShelbyNext giving](#), family resources, and more! Click the underlined words to follow each link.

