



# VHBC *Connections*

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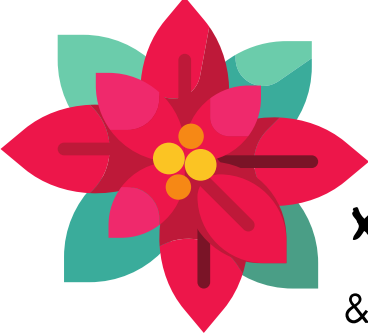
Join us



on ZOOM

**CALLED  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

**Wednesday,  
December 2nd  
6 pm**



# HOLIDAY *schedule* & UPCOMING EVENTS



**Nov 25-27** VHBC Offices closed for  
Thanksgiving Holidays



**Nov 23-Dec 6** No Youth Activities Scheduled



**Nov 29** Online Worship Only 10 am;  
Bethlehem Afternoon 3-4:15



**Nov 29-Dec 4** No indoor activities at VHBC,  
offices closed



**Dec 2** Curbside Dinner 5-5:30 pm;  
Called Business Meeting 6 pm on ZOOM



**Dec 6** Blood Drive @VHBC 9-2 pm;  
In-person Worship @ 10 am

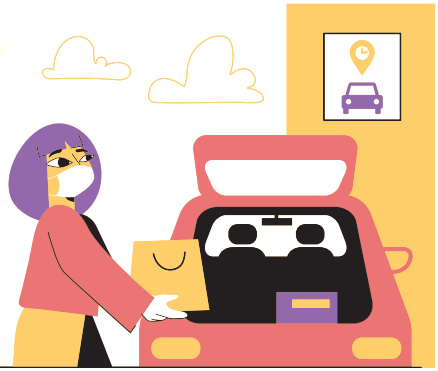
Please note that Sunday worship will be **ONLINE only on November 29th**. Registration for Sunday, December 6th will be available through our website or by calling (205)979-5920.

## Wednesday Night Takeout continues on December 2nd!

Pre-order & pay online at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com) for our next curbside meal!

December 2nd: poppy seed chicken, rice, broccoli, rolls. Each meal is \$6 and can be picked up in the back parking lot from 5-5:30 pm.

**This will be our last curbside meal for 2020.**



### 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.



Listen on  
Apple Podcasts



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!



# Welcome Wagon



In the past year, we've welcomed several members to our VHBC church family. Our welcome wagon continues with

## **Evelyn & Hunter Hill!**



Welcome to VHBC, Hill family! Evelyn and Hunter Hill are not only new members of VHBC, they are also next-door neighbors to the church. We're so excited to have them join our neighborhood and faith family!

Hunter is from Columbiana, Alabama, and Evelyn grew up in Birmingham. Evelyn practices law at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. Hunter works in finance at StoneX. They both enjoy outdoor activities like hiking and hunting. They also love to entertain family and friends at home. Evelyn and Hunter love good food, from Hunter's home-cooked BBQ to Frank Stitt's finest!

After moving back to Birmingham from Nashville, the Hill family began looking for a church home. Hunter had attended VHBC while in school at Samford. When they bought the house next door to the church, they naturally came over to visit. They soon decided to join the VHBC family!

During the months of social distancing this year, the Hill family has enjoyed settling into their new home, spending time with their "quaranteam", and hiking at Oak Mountain with their dog, Theo.

# SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

## Advent



As great events go, the birth of Jesus probably did not rank very high at the time that it happened. It's hard for us to imagine so great a moment slipping by without at least local news coverage, but apparently, only some shepherds and three stargazers from the east took notice.

As a child, it always seemed to me that the birth of Jesus must have been like our pageants—full of singing and obvious signs. I thought it would have had the impact of the strange event that happened in the sky last Saturday evening. I didn't see the light nor did I, for whatever, hear the loud sound. Apparently, a lot of people did. It had different effects on the observers. Police huddled with their fellow officers to figure out what they had seen. Astronomers and physicists theorized that it was a meteor or meteor shower. Truckers, according to news reports, pulled their rigs over and knelt to pray on the roadside, fearful that the end of time had come.

It's easy to think that the birth of the Savior would have been so apparent. Yet, for much of the world, the night passed as all nights do—people sleeping, thieves stealing, and the earth turning toward another day.

Maybe it isn't the "special" part of this birth that was so important anyway. Maybe it was the "ordinariness" of it all. I can certainly think of "hope" in the broad general sense, but it is far more challenging to hold it close in the hospital waiting room next to a dying friend. When you connect spiritual affirmations with real life, they become more difficult to envision.



Kathleen Norris writes that "the Incarnation...is the place where hope contends with fear." In this life, things that don't come together easily somehow become fused into one place and time. Fear I can envision. Hope I can imagine.

But they are hard to hold in mind at the same time. The psalmist once wrote that, for the person of faith, “steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky” (Psalm 85:10-11).

Somehow, in Jesus of Nazareth, things that do not hold together come together. It isn't easy to “hold it all together,” is it? We're better at hiding some things and emphasizing others. We know how to create compartments and put our lives into them so that some things never have to meet and deal with other things. We have come to believe almost as a universal truth that there is always “more to the story,” a “hidden agenda,” or a discrepancy in every life between public self and private self.



What a miracle, then, to meet a man whose life is one of utter integrity. Who better to bring together heaven and earth than this man? Who better to live the fullness of life and face the darkness of death? Who better to reunite lost sinners with a loving God? How fortunate are we, said the writer of Hebrews! “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.” In him, we realize that humanity and holiness are not a contradiction.

It's not the unusual aspects of this life that strikes me with such power—it's the ordinary ones. I'm not troubled by how quietly that birth night passed. I am encouraged. If such an ordinary moment can be charged with the holy, what miracle of God might be right here near me today in my life?

In this season beset with stress and strain, full of exhausting and mundane routines, keep looking. There are remarkable inklings of God that will surprise us—if we have eyes to see and ears to hear them. Join us in the ways we have, read more deeply, revisit the story, linger in prayer. Give generously to those in need. God is among us.

*Gary Furr*





# vhbc kids

## THIS FALL

VHBC Kids' Sunday school meetings will continue on Zoom. Check out the times & leaders for each group below!

### sunday school

9AM

- Kindergarten with Gilda Coker and James Carr
- 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

9:30AM

- 1st/2nd Grades with Sandra Bates and Gay Caldwell



**BETHLEHEM**  
~~MORNING~~  
**AFTERNOON**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29  
3-4:15 pm

Families are invited to drive up to the green awning at the Children's Building and pick up items to start celebrating the Advent season. Please remain in your car.



# Prayer List

## MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

Mike Chandler

Lakeshore Rehab

## MEMBERS AT HOME

Don & Maxine Ammons

Sam & Libby Brown

Zelle Buckner

Carolyn Cain

Geri Dodson

Paul Edfeldt

Esther Evans

Milton Fullman

Jim & Natalie Garland

Mavis Hardy

Ruford Hodges

Charlotte Kyser

Daniel Mathangani

Samson Mathangani

Leon Nix

Margaret Northrup

June Ousley

Valerie Paul

Gaynell Pinson

Lottie St. John

Alicia Stigler

Hazel Turner

Stan & Sue Virciglio

Margaret Walker

Betty Wallis

Bobbye Weaver

Doris Wilson

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

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



# SIGHTS

*around VHBC*



Our sanctuary choir was able to practice outside on the grounds!

VHBC staff celebrated Sadra & Dora with a special luncheon last week!



*holiday beauty*



Thank you  
for your faithful service to VHBC!



Thank you to all of those who were able to drive up to the church to thank Sadra and Dora in person!

## VHBC GIVING

MTD Budget Offering: **\$90,431.26**

MTD Budget Needs: **\$133,952.00**

YTD Budget Offering: **\$1,441,924.41**

YTD Budget Needs: **\$1,573,936.00**

## 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.

