

A rustic autumn-themed still life. In the center, a wooden chair is draped with a red, black, and white plaid blanket. A large orange pumpkin sits on the chair's seat, tied with a yellow ribbon. A wicker basket filled with red and yellow apples sits on a wooden crate in front of the chair. To the right, a green ceramic pitcher holds a bouquet of bright yellow flowers. The background is a light-colored wooden wall with red-leafed vines climbing up. The overall scene is warm and inviting, capturing the essence of fall.

VHBC Connections

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES OCT. 25TH!

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.

IN TUNE

with VHBC

 Listen on
Apple Podcasts

 Spotify

 STITCHER

VHBC FALL FEST



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020
3:30 - 5:00 PM

Grab a costume & a treat bag, decorate your vehicle, & meet us in the VHBC main parking lot for a special drive-thru fall fest!

candy

pumpkins

games & prizes

photos



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. Special gifts may be made through the church finance office.



2021 Count me in

AT VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

As we wrap up a year that has challenged us in so many ways, we give thanks for the faithfulness of our members. We look forward to 2021 as a year where we can return to the full range of our ministries as well as endeavor to do more in our community. We count on the blessings we have known together in Christ to continue.

As you consider pledging for 2021, know that every pledge matters. We are deciding now what we can do together in the next year. This is a good time to declare, "Count me in".

The 3rd - 6th Grade GAs are proud to sponsor this fall's



Food Drive



This October Food Drive will benefit the **Firehouse Shelter**. Look for the bright containers in the VHBC foyer through Wednesday, October 28th!

**Please
donate**

- **Pancake Mix (Aunt Jemima Complete, the kind that mixes with water only)**
- **Syrup**
- **Cereal**
- **Beef Jerky**
- **Granola Bars**

SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

SADRA DUDLEY AND DORA SAMUEL TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 2020

After much reflection, and in talking with her family, Sadra Dudley has announced to us that she wishes to retire at the end of this year as Food Service Manager. I can only say that we will receive it but grieve at the thought of a Wednesday night in the future that doesn't have Sadra Dudley standing in the kitchen serving us. She is truthfully family to us. And her dear friend and fellow worker, Dora Samuel, has decided to retire at the same time.

Sadra Dudley is, in many ways, as much a part of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church as any of our members. For all these many years, she has served us, week in and week out. She managed to feed us delicious meals, efficiently, and safely served. She chafed when the Health Department gave her kitchen a 99 instead of 100 and redoubled her efforts. She met and responded to every member with the same kind spirit and smile, all while carrying out a complex job with grace, dignity, and solid management ability. She always made the budget work, and loved a staff and a whole church full of sometimes quirky characters and served us with a smile. Her ability to do that is unsurpassed.

I wrote this on her 25th anniversary:

I have rarely seen greater love from a church toward an employee than that toward Sadra, but I think it is because of who Sadra is. She not only does her job but does it with excellence and graciousness. For that reason, it is a joy to mark this very special occasion. Those of us who have gotten to know her also admire her deep Christian commitment, her values, and her devotion to church, family, and job.

Mrs. Dora Samuel is, like Sadra, **family**. She has been with us for twenty years as Food Service Assistant. Dora has a gracious, quiet, Christian spirit. She is a friend to all who are around her. She works hard alongside Sadra, Henry, and Mary every day, helping our meals to be served, and the children of our Child Development Center to be fed.

I want to express my personal appreciation to her and her family for being an excellent, dependable, caring, and valued part of our ministry team here at VHBC. Dora, we appreciate you, and thank you for your service to all of us! As I have spoken with them recently, they have reflected not so much on the work itself as a workplace that was a calling and among people they so enjoyed and loved.

On Sunday, November 15, we will honor Sadra and Dora in the online morning worship and with a drive-up reception through our porte cochère at our front entrance from 3:00-4:00 pm.

COUNT ME IN TIME OF COMMITMENT CONTINUES

Our commitments are a declaration of faithfulness to our ministries and mission for the coming year. In all my years in the pastorate, I don't remember a time when the faithfulness and devotion of the church I served was more evident. It has been evidence of the love and commitment of our people to their fellowship as we have faced this time of great crisis together. I am grateful that you continue to say, **"Count on me."** You show it every day!

You can make your 2021 pledge through the website, with a phone call, email, or by mailing it in with your card. Thank you for your faithfulness this year.

Gary

SIGN UP NOW



**Wednesday
Prayer Service &
Bible Study** October 14th at
6 pm



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
- 3rd Grade Class with Leigh Gwathney and Marie Gwathney
- 4th/5th Grade Class with Liz David and Jenny Henry

9:30AM

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

11:00AM

- 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



SUNDAY

YOSE 5-6 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

October 19th

6:00-8:00 pm

Thanks to our awesome youth ministry team for
holding everything together!

-Rachel Jordan
-Allison Youngblood
-Dale Tadlock
-Matt Hutcheson



-Grayton Brooks
-Jay McFarland
-Sara McFarland
-Elise Pittman

Evening Vespers concluding October 18th



There are still plenty of spaces to reserve for our evening vespers service at the Amphitheater. Click [here](#) to register for our October 18th service. Sign up [HERE](#).



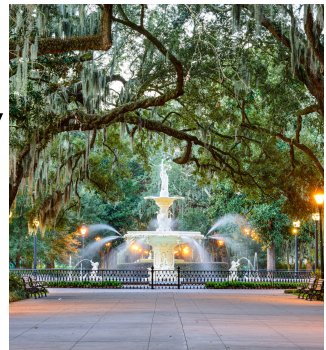
Wednesday Night Takeout continues on October 28th!

Visit VHBC.com to sign up for our curbside dinner: **BBQ PORK OR CHICKEN, BAKED BEANS, SLAW, POTATO CHIPS**. Meals are \$6/each and pick-up will be available from 5-6 pm. **Meals must be ordered and paid for before pick-up.**



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

Samson Mathangani Grandview
Mindy Bodenhamer Surgery on 10/22

MEMBERS AT HOME

Don & Maxine Ammons	Dianne Horn
Don Baker	Charlotte Kyser
Ben Booth	Brian Lebold
Sam & Libby Brown	Billie Lochamy
Zelle Buckner	Christopher McCarty
Bob Bush	Leon Nix
Carolyn Cain	Margaret Northrup
Louise Cunningham	Nora Ousley
Shirley Daviston	Billie Pigford
Geri Dodson	Gaynell Pinson
Mike Dulin	Alicia Stigler
Esther Evans	Prissy Sumners
Milton Fullman	Hazel Turner
Jim & Natalie Garland	Rachel Turner
Elene Griffith	Stan & Sue Virciglio
Jim Hall	Margaret Walker
Mavis Hardy	Betty Wallis
Lauren Hartzog	Nancy Welch
Dan & Sharon Hartzog	Bobbye Weaver
Ruford Hodges	Doris Wilson

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- Elene Griffith and Dan & Sharon Hartzog and family as they mourn the loss of George Griffith on October 4th.
- Gerry Bragdon in the death of her brother, George W. Pearson in Florida on October 4th.
- Maggie Shelton in the death of her brother, I.D. Shelton in New Orleans.





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

Ken Roxburgh!

One of VHBC's newest members is also a long-standing member. Ken Roxburgh, along with his wife, Gwen, first joined this church in 2002. In September 2014, Ken went to Southside Baptist Church to be their preaching minister, and after five years he returned to us as a new/old member.



Ken is originally from Prestwick, Scotland. After receiving his call to ministry he attended London School of Theology (where he met Gwen), and later earned advanced degrees from Aberdeen & Edinburgh Universities. He spent 16 years in pastoral ministry, followed by 9 years in teaching and administration at Scottish Baptist College in Glasgow.

In 2002 Ken and Gwen came to Birmingham when Ken became the Chair of the Department of Religion at Samford University. he held that position until 2015, and he continues to teach several courses at Samford. One of his courses is regularly taught online in the summer term, so he has a bit of an advantage adapting the rest of his teaching to the current online environment. Prior to the pandemic, Ken & Gwen enjoyed extensive travel, and they are looking forward to the time when that will be possible once again. In the meantime he is staying busy reading, preparing course materials, researching for an upcoming book, and most enjoyably, visiting his two children and four grandchildren in Scotland via Zoom.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES

We're excited to welcome folks back to the church building for in-person worship on October 25th. There will be a limited number of seats available and safety protocols will be in place.

Reservations for these services will be open Monday, October 19th, through Saturday, October 24th. Online worship will continue to be available and both online and in-person services will be nearly identical.

STAY CONNECTED



Visit 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.

WATCH VHBC ONLINE

