



AUGUST 18, 2020
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Variations

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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**SPECIAL SUNDAY
EVENING SERVICE
ON AUGUST 30TH!**

Outdoor Vespers
An abbreviated evening
worship service in the
amphitheater that will
include scripture, prayer,
music, and a meditation
from Pastor Gary Furr.

**SPACE IS LIMITED!
SIGN UP AT
VHBC.COM!**

VHBC GIVING

Many options are available to give to VHBC. Please visit [VHBC.com/stay-connected](https://vhbc.com/stay-connected) to find the links to our Online Giving page and tutorials on how to use our ShelbyNext giving portal on the app and desktop.

MTD Budget Offering

52,047.72

MTD Budget Needs

72,556.50

YTD Budget Offering

1,075,606.49

YTD Budget Needs

1,160,906.64

Thank you so very much for your faithful giving. We continue to be able to operate because of you!

SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

GATHERING RESERVES

The Christian life is a long-distance run, not a sprint. One of the struggles of the Christian life is how to avoid spiritual dryness over the long haul. The early church had to contend with this problem. Born out of the miracle of Easter, empowered by the miracle of Pentecost and energized by the hope of the second coming of Jesus in their lifetimes, early Christians had to begin to come to terms with “what to do when we’re in for the long haul.”

The setting of the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6 is addressed to this problem. The Jewish Christians to whom Matthew wrote were steeped in Hebrew traditions of prayer. Their problem was not knowing too little but having lost the essence of prayer amid zealous pietism. Jesus reminded them of the need to return once more to the core reality of prayer—attentive conversation with the living God unhindered by human motives and agendas. That is why he counseled “going into your closet” to pray. It was not to say that public prayer is bad, but that prayer is always in danger of being for human listeners rather than the intended Hearer.

The Lord’s prayer is a reminder that simple prayer is the best prayer. Eloquence must defer to honesty in prayer. God cannot be impressed, only loved, and honored by our prayers.

This seems doubly important now. Our problems as a society, which erupted into crisis in March, have now moved from crisis into an endurance contest. We are not sprinters – we are marathon runners. As runners know, somewhere in the middle of that long road comes momentary despair. The road ahead stretches beyond our seeing to the end. The road behind already has been too long.

pastor's article con't...

And something in the soul wants to crumple up and quit. It is then that the runner must find something, an invisible next gear, a reserve tank, to go on.

As we move into this fall unlike any we remember, it is time to find some reserve. As we stay together on the run, we offer opportunities for connection, worship, and spiritual sustenance on the long haul of this troubled time. Take note of opportunities for learning, study, fellowship, and worship. There are many smaller options available ahead. It is a time for spiritual discipline, prayer, and encouragement. Get up, keep going, and connect somewhere for deeper living.

I will be offering a five-week class entitled, **From the Shadowlands to Hope: Navigating Grief**. This class is not meant to be a therapy session, though there are freedom and room to share—none is required. It is not a strict lecture class, but an introduction to information and resources to help us in navigating our way through the hardest of life's journeys—the journey of loss. All who wish to grow in understanding what is happening in the process of grief are welcome to join us. Guest speakers will join me as we try to comprehend what seems impossible to take in—the loss of a loved one. No one is required to share. Limited attendance and signup are required, but I hope some of you will come to join me. Look at the classes offered and sign up for one. We will meet in designated spaces on the property until we are cleared to meet in the building safely again.

Look at the other opportunities listed here and plan to be part of our fellowship in growth and hope this fall. There is a place somewhere for you—safe and distanced. Join us.

Gary

MIDWEEK SESSIONS THIS FALL

STARTING TUESDAY, AUGUST 25TH

SUNSET YOGA W/BETH MCGINNIS
TUESDAYS @ 6:30 PM
FRONT LAWN AT VHBC

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY
OVERCOMING BARRIERS
WEDNESDAYS @ 6 PM ON OUR WEBSITE

A TIME TO PRAY W/LAURA & DALE TADLOCK
WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM
ZOOM MEETING

JESUS & THE DISINHERITED BOOK STUDY
W/MIKE MCBRAYER
WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM
CDC MAIN ENTRANCE

NAVIGATING GRIEF W/GARY FURR
WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM
VHBC PORTE COCHERE

SERMON ON THE MOUNT BOOK STUDY
W/LARUE SPEIGHTS
THURSDAYS @ 6 PM
ZOOM MEETING

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER FOR
A SMALL GROUP PLEASE VISIT **VHBC.COM**

Wednesday Night Suppers are back on August 26th!

Visit VHBC.com to sign up for our new curbside dinner, starting next Wednesday. Meals are \$6/each and pick-up will be available from 5-6 pm. Meals must be ordered and paid for before pick-up.



IN TUNE



with VHBC

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



Spotify



Hike the Hills provides opportunity for participants to challenge themselves, friends, and family while maintaining social distancing yet still supporting community and international causes. Visit vestaviarotary.org to register.





vhbc kids

THIS FALL

We had a wonderful start last Sunday for our fall kids' Sunday School classes! It's not too late to join! Contact Nancy for more info!



9AM

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

9:30AM

- Kindergarten with Gilda Coker and James Carr
- 1st/2nd Grades with Sandra Bates and Gay Caldwell

11:00AM

- Sixers with Lucas Dorion and Mindy Bodenhamer

Don't forget to tune in to worship this Sunday to see our last children's presentation for August!

AUG 23

Bible presentation to First graders



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

Michael & Terry Morgan!

Michael and Terry Morgan are the first new members to join VHBC amid the pandemic shutdown. He is Assistant to the President at Samford University, and she recently ended a tenure as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Judson College in Marion. They have visited VHBC often through the years and wanted to make this their church home now that their physical residence is nearby. They are both excited about the ways the VHBC family is staying connected during this time of separation, and they look forward to the time when we can meet together once again.



**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

Don Ammons Brookwood SICU
Billie Pigford Chattanooga

MEMBERS AT HOME

Maxine Ammons	Charlotte Kyser
Barbara Bell	Leon Nix
Sam & Libby Brown	Margaret Northrup
Zelle Buckner	Nora Ousley
Bob Bush	Gaynell Pinson
Carolyn Cain	Ron Smith
Louise Cunningham	Hazel Turner
Geri Dodson	Rachel Turner
Esther Evans	Sue Virciglio
Milton Fullman	Margaret Walker
Jim Garland	Betty Wallis
Natalie Garland	Bobbye Weaver
George Griffith	Nancy Welch
Ardath Grizzell	Doris Wilson
Ruford Hodges	

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Jessie Stevens & Chris Chandler
AND Morgan Maddox & Drew Cunningham who
were engaged on Saturday, August 8th!

Rachel & Tyler Deagon welcomed baby boy, Aaron
Tyler Deagon on Thursday, August 13th!

Congratulations to LaWayne & Janice Fleming on
their Golden anniversary (50 years!) on August 23rd.

Thank you



The good people of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church have reached out to us and supported us in so many ways following the death of our beloved Tyson, and we are *grateful*.

You have showered concern and compassion upon all of our families with your prayers, kind words, gifts to the Caring Fund, many, many cards, and other expressions of sympathy and more than enough food to nourish us during these very difficult times.

The loss of Tyson is devastating, and we shall continue to covet your prayers in the days and weeks ahead. Thank you for loving us so much.

Kathryn, Mark, & Amelia Grace Stewart

Taylor & James Groce

Jerrie & George Elliott

Jerolyn, Scott, Corinne, & George Phillips

STAY CONNECTED

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

WATCH VHBC ONLINE



YOUR MINISTRY STAFF

GARY FURR, PASTOR

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS

MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR

ELISE PITTMAN, MINISTRY ASSISTANT

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP