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# *Variations*

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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# SUMMER GROUPS

#discussionsonrace

Our small group discussions on race relations begin next week. We have two book groups, two movie groups, and two groups discussing "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and other selected articles from African American voices. Many thanks to our facilitators: Dennis Anderson, Dick and Mindy Bodenhamer, Meryll Cooper, Norfleete Day, Scott McGinnis, and Jess Nix. See more details [HERE](#), where you can sign up for online or in-person groups.

Though we may not always agree on the reasons for injustice or the responses to it, we are united in our call to love our neighbor. In these small discussion groups, our goal will be to give racial inequities our attention and to consider how we as Christians and the church can seek justice for all of God's people. Sign up for a group today.

## Books

[Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson

[So You Want to Talk About Race](#)  
by Ijeoma Oluo V

## Film

[Just Mercy](#) (2019)

## Articles

"Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by  
Martin Luther King Jr. & other  
selected articles by  
African American Voices

# SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

## HENRY WHITE CELEBRATES FORTY YEARS WITH VHBC!

It was about this time of year in 2000, twenty years ago, when we celebrated Henry White for twenty years' service on our church staff. Henry is more than our Facilities Manager—he is family to us. He has, in one way or another, been part of most of the 50th Wedding Celebrations, weddings, funerals, and Vacation Bible Schools for forty years. We cannot describe the gratitude we feel for his loyalty. I count Henry as my friend. He has the greatest attitude you can imagine—always willing to pitch in and help.

Most of us, though, think of his distinctive laugh. I love to tell a story about when gets Henry “tickled” as we say here in the South. Because once he crosses over into that laughter, it just keeps growing and getting more uncontrollable. The next thing you know, tears are rolling down his cheeks. He loves to laugh.

What makes him a joy to work with and have as part of our church family, though, is a steady, level spirit. I know he'll be here no matter what. We have been through some things, and we remember a lot more these days. Many of us know, too, that he came from a loving, hard-working family of faithful Christians. His mother and father raised them to work hard and do right by others.

Last Sunday, we had a tribute for Henry's fortieth anniversary in our online worship. In case you missed it, or perhaps turned off the service after the closing hymn, we thought we'd put it back up again online to express our love and appreciation for this man who has done so much for our church through the years. Click [HERE](#) to watch it on vhbc.com.



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You can tell a lot about someone by how they treat children. Children love “Roe-Roe,” as the little ones started calling him, after watching him wield a vacuum cleaner. And Henry loves them. He calls their names, cuts up with them, and his affection for children is authentic. Thank you, Henry. You’ve made a difference in our lives, and we’ll never forget you. Stay well. We still need you.

## MOVING AHEAD TOGETHER

Our committees you elected are continuing to work hard to develop a plan and benchmarks for us to navigate toward opening our property and building again. It is already possible to have small gatherings outdoors and we will be developing these more as days go forward. Our Child Development Center began their training and preparations for reopening their portion of the building soon.

We have had five funerals on the property since the pandemic began. We have created ways to use the internet and website to provide worship, prayer breakfast every Wednesday (contact [Martha@vhbc.com](mailto:Martha@vhbc.com) if you’d like to join the online meeting weekly with me), and many class and study opportunities. We will begin some small gatherings soon. Keep praying for your leaders as we balance safety and our need for community.

## FOLLOW UP FROM OUR RACIAL RECONCILIATION DIALOGUE

I was so grateful for James Fields and Dr. CeCelia Walker joining me last week for a dialogue on the issues of race, justice, and Christian reconciliation. You would find it interesting to know that it has been watched nearly 900 times online as of Monday the 22nd!

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There is a great hunger to find solutions to pain, division, and hurt. We long to be one nation together and for a common understanding of being citizens of this great nation. We will continue to undertake opportunities to learn, read, open new channels of fellowship and conversation. Law and order and racial fairness and justice are not opposed to one another. As followers of Jesus, let us be part of helping build a good world for all together.

*Gary*



**Online Bible Study series  
coming in July!**  
**July 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th**

A special online Bible study series will be offered during July on Sunday mornings. Our own Ken Roxburgh will be teaching each week from the book of Hosea. The prophet's message to a wayward Israel and promise of God's redemption remains relevant for God's people today. These 15-20 minute teaching sessions will be made available each Sunday at 9:30 am through our website on the Stay Connected page. They can also be accessed and viewed at a later time. We are especially grateful to Dr. Roxburgh for offering his time and insights to our church in this way.

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR VHBC LADIES



## Encouragement & Conversation for VHBC Ladies June 28th at 4 pm

LaRue Speights will be offering an online devotion and then lead in a time of sharing. Please join us by signing up at [VHBC.com](http://VHBC.com) or calling the church office, if you haven't already. On the day of the event, you will receive a ZOOM link from Nancy. We hope to see you there!

## STAY CONNECTED THROUGH VHBC.COM

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

### **WATCH VHBC ONLINE**





# WAGON

In the past year, we've welcomed several members to our VHBC church family. We'd like to introduce them to you in a new series in the Variations called Welcome Wagon! In this issue, we'd like to introduce you to **Gail Logan**.



Gail Logan moved to Vestavia from Charlotte, NC on January 6, 2020, to be nearer her family and joined VHBC on March 8, 2020. She grew up in Shelby, NC, and graduated from Appalachian State Teachers College.

She moved several times during the early years of her marriage because of her husband's job with Ford but then settled in Charlotte, NC. She retired after 30+ years as a jury supervisor for Mecklenburg County.

Mrs. Logan was ordained as a deacon in 1984 at Grace Baptist Church. She moved here from Hickory Grove Baptist Church.

**Gail Logan** continues on next page





# WAGON

## Gail Logan continued

Mrs. Logan has two daughters, one in Vestavia and one who splits time between Florida and Virginia. She has three grandchildren who live in Nashville, Baltimore, and Trussville, and four great-grandchildren. She has a 2-year-old dachshund, Jack, who *walks her* twice a day.

Mrs. Logan now lives in an apartment at Town Village, where she enjoys the many activities offered there. She reads, works jigsaw puzzles, and plays bridge. She enjoys travel and has traveled to multiple countries and taken several river cruises. Now she travels primarily to visit family.

Mrs. Logan did not have any family or friend connections at VHBC, but was seeking a church home and found one here. Mrs. Logan is a member of the Friendship Sunday School class. She is utilizing the online services and programs offered on Sundays and Wednesdays to stay connected during this *stay at home* time.

**Check out our next issue in July to welcome another new member at VHBC!**



**at home**

Unfortunately, Seed Camp cannot happen as it usually does, but Seed Camp AT HOME is happening in July!

We are putting together 100 bags for 1st-5th graders in Marion, like the VBS bags we did for our children. All of the activities will include written instructions. Let's work together to give the children of Marion the best Seed Camp!

### **Here are three ways you can help!**

**1) Cards-** Make a handwritten card to go in each participant's bag. Include a little something about yourself and your family! Sign the card with first names and send them to the church or drop them in the cooler outside the children's building at the church.

**2) Financial Contributions-** We have invited our VHBC volunteers who have staffed Seed Camp in the past to contribute their typical registration costs (\$60) to support Seed Camp AT HOME. You can join them by giving online or by check to "Seed Camp". Any amount is welcome.

**3) Prayer-** Pray for the families and children that will receive these bags. Pray that Seed Camp At Home will touch their lives in an impactful, meaningful way.

Reach out to [elise@vhbc.com](mailto:elise@vhbc.com)  
with any questions!

# Online Giving

**Many options are available to give online to VHBC. Please visit [VHBC.com/stay-connected](https://www.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**

**117,300.10**

**MTD Budget Needs**

**100,464.00**

**YTD Budget Offering**

**841,618.30**

**YTD Budget Needs**

**837,200.00**

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