

A close-up photograph of a watercolor palette with various colors of paint. The palette is white with a blue border. The colors visible include yellow, green, pink, red, and blue. The paint is applied in circular, textured strokes. The background is a solid red color.

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# *Variations*

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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## UPCOMING SERMONS

June 14

***"Holiness & Hope"***  
***Ezekiel 36:22-32***

June 21

***"The Great Escapes"***  
***Jeremiah 20-7-18***

June 28

***"Hope After"***  
***Isaiah 65***

July 5

***"Keys to the Kingdom"***  
***Daniel 7:9-14***



# FRIENDS, WE NEED YOUR OPINION!

Please check your email for a message from the Re-opening Task Force at VHBC. They have created a very short (less than 5 minutes) survey that each household should complete. This survey was created to compile your thoughts about safely returning to some in-person activities at the church building. Your responses are an important part of our planning. A link to the survey is below. If you would rather respond by mail, or if you don't have email access, please call the church office and survey can be mailed to you. The office can also record your answers over the phone.

RE-ENTRY SURVEY  
LINK

# **SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER**

**DR. GARY FURR**

**I watched some of the news Monday about the outpouring of sorrow for the family of George Floyd. I was very touched by the governor of Texas and his sincere determination to do something for the family and for us all.**

**I was especially drawn to an interview with a young African American mother in line for the funeral visitation. She started crying when the reporter asked her what she did to help her small children grow up feeling safe amid the pain of the moment. She said the right things, "Teach them what is right, pray over them," but her fear was overwhelming. I thought to myself, "We have to be about caring about each other's children in our country—say it, show it, demand it, and let's make our world demonstrate it. Children, all of them, are God's precious gift. Period. She needs our help."**

**As God's church, we do not have the luxury of simply having our opinions about it all. We are tied to a story of an unjust death, a suffering Lord, and a gospel of healing and reconciliation. We need to say something right now.**

**It's hard to know what to say, but  
saying nothing is a poor choice.**

**More important is finding a way forward, deliberately, carefully, and allowing time for us all to come along. I will begin a short series of sermons on the prophets of the post-exilic time. They began to sound a vision of hope in an outwardly hopeless time.**

**pastor's article continued from  
previous page**

**On a more concrete level though, I would welcome our church into a conversation about this old wound of race and division and how we might be agents of God's healing in this time. Politics is a tool, but ultimately it is not sufficient for the whole of the problem. It is a spiritual and moral crisis, of which the political is merely a way we express a deeper moral answer.**

### **We are unreconciled people.**

**I want to hold a two-part conversation next Tuesday evening. In a panel discussion moderated by Mike McBrayer, I will join two friends on the question of racial reconciliation.**

**How do we understand what is happening, and how can we be of help and be effective in building bridges in this moment?**



**Dr. CeCelia Walker**



**Rev. James Fields**

**I've invited Dr. CeCelia Walker, who spoke during our Lenten series, and is the Director of Pastoral Care for the Brookwood Baptist Health System. I have also asked Rev. James Fields, a new friend I met in 2019. Rev. Fields is an ex-Marine, who grew up in rural Alabama. He is a Methodist minister, served in the Alabama House of Representatives, and ran for Lieutenant Governor in 2014. I have found him to be a man of conciliatory spirit and Christian love, who is nevertheless honest about the issues before us.**

pastor's article continued from  
previous page

**The three of us will have an honest conversation for you to watch. We want you to send questions ahead of time for us to wrestle with. If you have a point of discussion, send it to [martha@vhbc.com](mailto:martha@vhbc.com), and we'll reflect on as many as time allows. The following night, Wednesday, June 17, we'll gather online as a church for a follow-up discussion. I'll ask a couple of members to help me with responding and helping us talk together. This panel discussion will be posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages and is open to anyone. The follow-up discussion will be with our church family.**

**I hope you will participate. This is a great time to figure it out, reason together, and above all, discern the mind of Christ for the church.**

Gary

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Encouragement & Conversation for VHBC Ladies

June 14th & 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). On the day of the event, you will receive a ZOOM link from Nancy. We hope to see you there!



## 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.

## \*Pierce Pettis Concert rescheduled\*

August 6th at 6 pm



# STAY CONNECTED



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

## Prayer List

## WATCH VHBC ONLINE



**Watch Pastor Furr's "Looking Up" series on our website, Facebook, or YouTube!**

**You can find our services on our YouTube channel and Facebook page, as well as updates and reminders on our Instagram page.**





# Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) Grant Recipients 2020

Due to the generosity of our members, the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee was able to fund **\$20,640** in grants for 2020. These grants benefited the Children's Ministry, Library Committee, Missions Committee, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Music Ministry, and the Sound Technology Committee. The total in the Fund as of December 31, 2019 has exceeded **\$647,852**. These funds will continue to grow and be used for missions, ministries, and capital needs.

We are thankful for those church members that had the vision to found the PEF in 2016.

We are also thankful for those church members who have generously made lifetime gifts and continue to do so. All church members have the opportunity to help our church grow the PEF from children giving a dollar offering to memorials given in honor or memory of someone or by members making a legacy gift naming the church's Endowment Fund as beneficiary of an IRA or in a Will. If you would like more information, contact Mike McBrayer or any member of the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee.

*He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.*

*Psalm 1:3*

# 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

47,115.05

MTD Budget Needs

33,488.00

YTD Budget Offering

766,780.65

YTD Budget Needs

770,244.00

**Your faithful giving has provided  
the ability to support our  
community during this time!**

# VHBC Music Ministry Word Search

Find the names of (and pray for) members of the  
Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, & Handbell Choir

L D S Z E M O A X I G E A L T F R E W A K D G P Y H A J T B  
A S U J B L L I B T N F V G R L U T N D V U N X S X A W X R  
U F J F N H O J M Y W K L E J B H N O A Z A L R K U Z A B O  
R J R B T G W C A U D Y F A E V A F D V O H A N Y D S C X M  
A U J X D V N W I J N I N T R I Z V I M C H U T M A X A F Y  
H T E B C S A J E N N I F E R R F M I L B U R N S S L G N W  
S N P Y A L J O N N C Q N A R A O I R L I A E M Z C U P P K  
Y S Z M O S U U E E L E M F P J C G E U M A N C Y W A S C G  
V X U M Q Q M J T L N O R A H S P A D S M R T M M A P I M T  
T E B Z O G G W Q T G S I A N C H A N M E M A H F F D R K O  
L X M D C N N R T U N U W I H N I H T A T E T X G J B G Y M  
K Q E X M T I X M O A E D D I Q O P W R H E R W Z B H D Q M  
Q L L A C J O C Z X F J J B D J L Z W G B D M P X E W D I Y  
J J O E R K D I A D L E D O W W B M H A O B H Y C J S N L D  
K S D V I A L H T B O N N I E E O L Z R E U D V H K O E V Q  
C E Y J G L B D X T A N M F Q O R I W E A W C J E D P L E G  
F P P I Y E L R I H S I L B I Q L N Z T O N Y A R W R E P R  
Z K C C L D D I A D X F T M A E M D Y R Q R G U R S W A W A  
D G A T M A R Y M B W E R R K Z C A X P D E M Y I O I H S H  
A M X R V W X B P O R R U N O Y A Y D N I M Y T E U L C W A  
Y E D E Y G H A E A V H J Y E R D U A M X X Q L P F X I K M  
A Q M Z A N M M G C T H E L E K N N M A W C I J A M L M N S  
N D Z V Z Y G R A R K P N I U F G I O L C Z G B V C T G R E  
I O W F M I A Q A G M Y N R Z D J J X D A X O G I N N Y H M  
M I Z V K M Q V R T G R I A N A L P M B D B M I K E E C D A  
S W B E C K Y H A Q Q I F M Z H D X E E B I J O P K L T K J  
M T X J R G V E S P I E E T Y T O T X Y K A Y E N E L R A M  
T H M N B L X I E E C U R B X E H J J M A R T Y O U R B D C  
U B F W S T M Z C O O X N A S U S W Y C C H L U V S I Q V Y

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# Word Search Key

Amy  
Audrey  
Becky  
Bobby  
Caroline  
Dick  
Eddi  
Ginny  
Jan  
Jennifer  
Jimmie  
John  
Laura  
Leah  
Maggie  
Marianna  
Marty  
Melody  
Milburn  
Mindy  
Nicole  
Paul  
Rene  
Sara  
Susan  
Tommy

Ann  
Barbara  
Beth  
Bonnie  
Cherri  
Don  
Elizabeth  
Graham  
Janice  
Jennifer  
John  
Karyn  
Lauren  
Linda  
Margaret  
Marilyn  
Marty  
Michael  
Millie  
Monica  
Pam  
Reese  
Rowdy  
Sharon  
Susan

Arthur  
Becky  
Bill  
Bruce  
Dave  
Don  
Elizabeth  
James  
Jennifer  
Jennifer  
John  
Kaye  
LaWayne  
Lyn  
Margaret  
Marlene  
Mary  
Mike  
Mina  
Naomi  
Pat  
Reese  
Samuel  
Shirley  
Thad