



MAY 26, 2020  
VOL. 27 ISS. 11

# Variations

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

# CONTENTS

## 03 VBS@HOME

Find out more about how we're offering VBS for our VHBC kids!

## 04 SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

Pastor Gary Furr shares his thoughts on returning to the church building in such a time as this.

## 07 ZOOM MEETINGS

Check out the listing for online get-togethers for our children, youth, and adults!

## 08 ONLINE GIVING

## 09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 10 STAY CONNECTED

## 11 THANK YOU

**PENTECOST  
IS THIS  
SUNDAY!**





# CONCRETE & CRANES

Philippians 1:6

Put on your hard hats  
& get ready for

## VBS@Home!

### June 1-4, 2020

**Each day** will include a Bible verse to remember,  
a Bible story to hear, a game to play,  
and art to create!

Children will need a bag to participate fully!

Families will receive emails starting Monday with  
links to a playlist of videos for **VBS@Home!**

BAG PICK UP DAY is  
**Sunday, May 31st**  
from **1-3 pm!**

- Drive up the church parking lot.
- Stay in your car.
- One person will bring the bag(s) to your car.

**JESUS! OUR STRONG FOUNDATION!**

# SHEPHERD'S ENCOURAGER

DR. GARY FURR

No two crises are the same. Those of us who have been at VHBC for many years remember once before when we were knocked out of our routine, in April of 2000, when a tornado damaged our sanctuary and put us out of worship together there until the fall. We met at Samford at Reid Chapel and then in the fellowship hall, forced to have closed-circuit broadcast live in the chapel. Sunday School classes took turns sitting in the chapel so that we could have everyone in the building together while the sanctuary was repaired.

We learned to deal with the inconvenience and a little hardship to get through it together. We bonded powerfully during that time, but it was a different crisis from this one. For one, the rest of the world hadn't been hit by a tornado simultaneously. For another, we could still see one another, hug each other, and have the joy of presence together.

This is harder, will last longer, and has the added pain of physical separation. Communities of faith are finding their way, sharing information, having the gift of technology to stay connected, but it is still a challenge. The storm is often invisible—a microscopic organism and the casualties in hospitals, out of public view.

So, we must trust one another more deeply than we ever have, work together more intentionally, stay focused, and help each other. Fortunately, you as a congregation have stepped up magnificently. I couldn't be prouder to be your Pastor. We have seen the abundance of gifted leadership in this church step forward.

**We have made it through the immediate crisis, settled into the adjustments of this time of bearing through it.**

**Now, what is the path forward?**

- 1. The next phase of our work is to continue to carry out our mission in a time of great struggle and suffering in the world around us, even as we begin to think together how to return.** On Wednesday evening, we will have a virtual quarterly business meeting. We will elect our leaders for the new church year.
- 2. We will formalize the crisis team of leaders who will guide the staff and church in the process of negotiating this crisis and how to carefully return to the church safely.**
- 3. Whatever else “returning” means, it does not mean we will “go back” to what was exactly as we remember it.** We now have a thriving video ministry. I think it must remain as a complement to our life as a church. It has given us a window of invitation and welcome to the world outside. It has also given us a deeper connection with our members who can no longer attend physically. I think this has been a great new innovation. Let’s figure out how to integrate it into our life together in the days ahead.
- 4. It also means the opportunity for cleaning out, reorganizing, rebuilding, repairing, and spiritually renewing our church.** After that crisis in 2000, I recall preaching on what it would mean to “return.” I focused the sermons on the lowly prefix like “re-.” It can signify “moving backward” as in “returning” or undoing something (“remove”), or even doing something over again (who has “repeated” themselves!).

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE CON'T FROM PAGE 5

I decided to preach a series of messages that year as we returned based around that lowly little prefix. It was an interesting way to reflect on so much of the focus of the Christian life—how has God worked in those situations to which we are sometimes called in which we take up something again, or face something in a new way?

The gospel is full of second-chance stories, new beginnings, starting over, and transformations, so that the same old situation or life is suddenly like new. So I have *re*-visited those sermons to think about this again as we go on, resume, and find a new way into our life as a church.

- REBUILDING
- RESTORATION
- RETURN
- REMEMBERING
- RENEWAL
- REPENTANCE
- REJOICING
- RECONCILIATION

I don't intend to simply reproach these sermons. I want to restudy scriptures about the people of God in times of disruption and distress and how God led them in the work of restoration and new hope. I want to ask, "What do these ideas mean for this moment?" It is a most extraordinary moment, one of unprecedented interruption and chaos. Such times are full of danger, but also a momentous opportunity for humanity and the church to move to higher ground and greater faithfulness. Think, pray, and hope along with me in the days ahead.

And let us remember this --- we do not have to "go back" to church. We are the church now, where we are. Jesus is wherever two of us manage to get together to pray, learn, and remember the faith. Jesus is present to every family gathered by the television to worship together or every single widow praying for her church. We will come back to the building, but we never left the church at all.

# zoom



## vhbc kids

### wednesdays

Kindergarten Friends 3:30 pm  
Girls, grades 1-3 4:00 pm  
Girls, grades 4-6 4:30 pm

### sundays

Sixers 5:00 pm

Preschool &  
Children's  
Teachers are  
invited to gather  
Saturday  
mornings on  
**ZOOM** at 10 am.



VHBC YOUTH

*quarantine*

## SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY

Today



lesson

7:00 PM

& Zoom hangout

### SUNDAY



lesson

9:30 AM

Zoom hangout

7:00 PM



**SANCTUARY  
CHOIR  
PRACTICE**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM**

# 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

126,097.50

MTD Budget Needs

133,952.00

YTD Budget Offering

719,199.40

YTD Budget Needs

703,248.00

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**\*ONLINE\***  
**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH AT 6 PM**

**HELP US CELEBRATE PENTECOST**  
**THIS SUNDAY, MAY 31ST!**

Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and is the birthday of the Church! Create a birthday celebration at home with cake, party hats, flowers, posters, etc., and send us a picture. Try to incorporate red, orange, and yellow to represent the tongues of fire. Also consider how you can include the mighty, rushing wind (maybe streamers, pinwheels, or bubbles). Pictures can be submitted to [brittni@vhbc.com](mailto:brittni@vhbc.com). The submission deadline is today!

 **HEY,**  
**2020**   
**GRADUATES!**

We want to hear from you! Are you graduating in May, this summer, or in the fall? Send us your name, school name, and your degree. We want to recognize you for **Graduate Recognition Sunday on June 7th!**



**PIERCE PETTIS**  
**CONCERT**  
**JUNE 11TH**

# STAY CONNECTED



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!

## *Prayer List*

## WATCH VHBC ONLINE



**Watch the latest episode of 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.**

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, and phone calls after my dad's death. It means so much because he really loved Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, and I do, too! Thank you to everyone that took time to watch his *virtual* funeral on the church website.

I know that my dad would feel so happy and proud that so many in his church family took time to do this! I am looking forward to the time that we can all be back together. Thank you again for your kind sympathy.

LOVE & PRAYERS,  
JODY POE

thank you

