



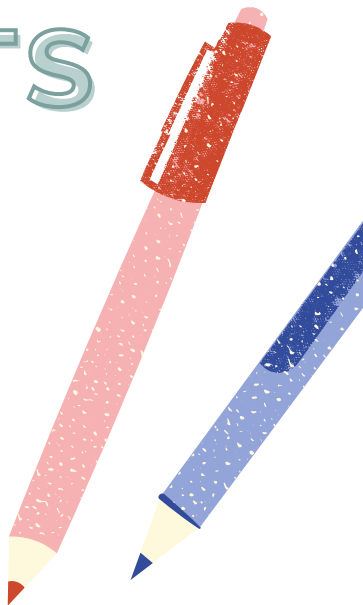
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020  
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# Variations

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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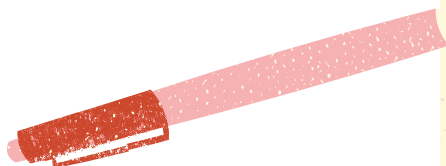
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*Evening Vespers  
service moved to  
Sunday, Sept. 6th!*

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.  
Register 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  
99,050.33

MTD Budget Needs  
167,440.00

YTD Budget Offering  
1,068,609.10

YTD Budget Needs  
1,172,080.00

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

## UPCOMING SERMON SERIES: **WHAT CHRISTIANS CARE ABOUT**

If once we were in danger of complacency, we are no more. If anything, we dwell in a moment of hyper vigilance. The problem is that we don't know where to begin in deciding what to care about and what to leave alone. While all of this is heightened by the toxic and inflated rhetoric of an election year, there is truth in our concern.

Even if the fundamentals of our economy are solid, there is uncertainty for any particular person about their job, their future, their prospects in a fast-changing world. A pandemic fills us with uncertainty about health, safety, and protecting those we love. Everywhere we turn, there is conflict, some of it artificially hyped, but much of it real, about the way forward for us all. The environment, racism, morality—we are numb with too much to care about anything.

The danger is that we will check out altogether—stop caring about anything but ourselves. And in the most extreme cases, begin to unravel altogether. It isn't the big things that indicate that someone is shutting down and disconnecting. It's the unmade bed, detachment from friends, letting our habits and disciplines of daily life go that are the telltale signs of a problem—depression, loss of hope, and sometimes self-destructive choices.

We used to sing a little song in that 1970s hymnal called, "Do You Really Care?" For me it was a bit corny musically, but the text asks this important question: "We have the hope and the purpose to share, but do we really care?"

**That**, theologian Douglas John Hall once wrote, is **THE** question for the Christian church. "Do Christians care?" To be a Christian is to care -- about what is right, about our responsibilities to God, each other, the world, and the progress of the gospel in the world.

## **pastor's article con't...**

Those who do not follow Christ have the luxury (for now) of not caring about these matters, but we do not.

Caring is, at first glance, a rather boring word, but in truth, it touches the deepest and most significant aspects of our lives. We begin life as those whose very existence and health depends on “being cared for” appropriately.

In 1971, philosopher Milton Mayeroff wrote a sparkling little essay called *On Caring*. In it, he made the observation that “caring” is not something we do intermittently. Caring and what we care about defines and orders everything in our lives. Find out what someone cares about and you understand everything else they do.

One thing that inspires me in the ministry is to see how much church people care about their church, its ministries, and its causes in the world. How they love and care for one another. How they care about their community and their world. We couldn't make it otherwise.

## **DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE THIS SUNDAY**

Sunday, we will ordain five new deacons to serve us this year. Like everything else in this time of the pandemic, we are finding a new and different way to do what was so meaningful and personal in a time when we could gather. I believe you will find the service meaningful. Then, Sunday evening, we will try again to have a first worship gathering outdoors at the amphitheater. Details about this service are available in the newsletter and on the website. Reservations are required ahead because of physical distancing requirements. We look forward to seeing many of you!



*Gary*



# MIDWEEK SESSIONS THIS FALL

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN!

**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**

# Thank you for 25 years!



For 25 years, Becky Griffith has served as chair of the Flower Committee. She coordinated volunteers who created flower arrangements for the sanctuary and foyer every week. Becky also arranged flowers for weddings,

funerals, holidays, and special events such as the Valentine's and Veteran's Day banquets. In addition to flower arranging, she brought a new ministry mindset to the committee's work as they provided arranging classes for children and adults and reached homebound members with their floral designs. As she steps down as chair and passes leadership on to Marsha Baker, we express our gratitude for the visual beauty Becky has brought to our worship, her attention to detail, and the ministry she's been so dedicated to. New Flower Committee Chair Marsha Baker said, "Becky is an excellent teacher and has taught me everything I know about flower arranging. Her creativity is boundless and her encouraging spirit overflowing. She has devoted many hours of service to this church and to the members of the Flower Committee teaching us how to worship God through the beauty of His creation. Thank you, Becky! You are loved!"





# vhbc kids

## THIS FALL

VHBC Kids' Sunday school meetings will continue on Zoom and starting this Wednesday, GA & RAs will meet. Check out the times & leaders for each group below! Parents, check your inbox on Wednesday!

### sunday school

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

### 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





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

### **Rand & Jaime Payton!**

Rand and Jaime Payton have two girls, Rory and Aubrey. Rory is in 7th grade at Berry Middle and Aubrey is in 4th grade at Greystone Elementary. Rand is from Blakely, GA. He is a Physical Education teacher at Greystone Elementary. Jaime is from Bessemer, AL. She is a massage therapist. Jaime and Rand enjoy playing golf together. They also enjoy college football in the fall and supporting their girls in all of their activities.

Rory loves to play lacrosse and basketball. She also loves to draw. Aubrey loves to dance and play lacrosse. She also enjoys baking and reading.

The Payton family has many connections to the VHBC family. Jennifer Carter is Rand's sister and Adie & Finn Carter are the girls' favorite cousins! Another interesting connection is that Dr. Furr was Rand's pastor in Blakely, GA when Rand was a youth. Dr. Furr also married Rand & Jaime 16 years ago! Because of their close connections with the church, the girls have attended VBS every summer since Rory was 3 years ago, nine summers in all! They started attending our church full-time after moving to Hoover.



The Payton family's favorite activities during the pandemic extended time at home have been making videos of family workouts and challenges for Rand's teacher website. They've also had lots of fun celebrating birthdays. **WELCOME TO VHBC!** We're so happy to have you!

# Prayer List

## MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

Curtis Gwathney UAB

John Paul Moore UAB

DeLoris Donegan Surgery on 9/1

Eddi Riley Surgery on 9/4 & 9/18

## NON-MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

Charles Bates Shelby Baptist, Roger Bates' cousin

## MEMBERS AT HOME

Don & Maxine Ammons

Mina Jeffers

Sam & Libby Brown

Charlotte Kyser

Zelle Buckner

Leon Nix

Bob Bush

Margaret Northrup

Carolyn Cain

Nora Ousley

Louise Cunningham

Billie Pigford

Liz David

Gaynell Pinson

Shirley Daviston

George Ritchey

Geri Dodson

Ron Smith

Esther Evans

Hazel Turner

Milton Fullman

Rachel Turner

Jim & Natalie Garland

Sue Virciglio

George Griffith

Betty Wallis

Ardath Grizzell

Nancy Welch

Mavis Hardy

Bobbye Weaver

Ruford Hodges

Doris Wilson

Lottie Jacks

## MEMBER NEWS

Brian & Heather Irvin welcomed Ryleigh Lynne & Cooper Anne Irvin on Thursday, August 27th in Auburn, AL. Proud grandfather is Allen Fulks.

Congrats on 50 years of marriage for Ron & Elizabeth Howard on August 29th.

## Wednesday Night Takeout continues on September 9th!

Visit [VHBC.com](http://VHBC.com) to sign up for our curbside dinner: **Spaghetti, tossed salad, and French bread.** 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



## 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.



# FIREHOUSE SHELTER UPDATES



The Firehouse continues to fight homelessness during this strange and difficult time. Sadly, we haven't been able to send our RAs to serve meals, but we still have been able to deliver meals to them. As an update, The Firehouse Shelter, along with UAB, were able to administer free flu shots to residents yesterday. We continue

to keep The Firehouse Shelter and the health of their residents in our prayers during this time! This Thursday, Anne Rygiel will be hosting a virtual town meeting at 11:30 am on Zoom. Click the link [here](#) for more instructions. The link also includes information about their current needs.

## 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! Click the underlined words to follow each link.

### WATCH VHBC ONLINE

