

APRIL 4, 2023

VOL 30 ISS 7

VHBC *Connections*

Holy Week

HE DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON, BUT HANDED HIM OVER
FOR THE SAKE OF ALL OF US.

ROMANS 8:32

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

HOLY WEEK AT VHBC

Explore the prayer garden this week for our **Holy Week Prayer Walk**. Throughout Scripture, those who experienced fellowship with God were described as walking with God. **Take this time to be with God this Holy Week.** Follow the signs beginning at the cross on the lawn during daylight hours through Saturday, April 8th.



Please join us for dinner and a special Maundy Thursday communion service on **April 6th**. Spaghetti dinner will be served from 4:45-5:45 pm and the service will be held in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be available during the service.



Friday, April 7th we will be serving a Good Friday luncheon at 11 am. Lunch will be \$5 and we will be serving chicken salad/pimento cheese croissants, chips, fruit, & dessert. Please let us know if you'll be attending on vhbc.com. The Good Friday service will begin in the sanctuary at Noon.



Saturday, April 8th, children and their families are invited to an Egg Hunt on the front lawn at 10 am. Don't forget your basket!

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Around VHBC

There has been so much going around the church lately! Our senior adults went back in time to 1943 with a movie matinee viewing of Casablanca. Our VHBC children and families went on a Walk with Jesus. Nancy, Tyler, and other staff helped create a garden Prayer Walk for all to see and William-Carey University chorale performed this past weekend.

HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

Hosanna, loud hosanna
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of men and angels
Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"
Jeanette Threlfall

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT VHBC



8:45 AM SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

- Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Building. Please sign your child in at the front reception desk.
- Find our Welcome Team in the main foyer if you need assistance looking for a class for you and your family.

10:00 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

- Worship guides and hymn sheets are available at the sanctuary entrances.
- If you are unable to worship in person with us, please join us online or over the radio at 91.1 FM.
- Worship Care for babies through Kindergarten begins at 9:45 am.

5:00 PM YOUTH ON SUNDAY EVENING

- All youth meet in the Student Building to play games, listen to a devotion, and prepare for the upcoming week.

4:45 PM FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at vhbc.com to reserve your meal!
- Adults/Youth \$6 per person
- Kids (K-6th) \$4 per person
- Preschoolers & College Students eat free!

4:45 PM HANDBELLS

5:30 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

6:00 PM YOUTH ACTIVITIES

6:00 PM ADULT SESSIONS

6:15 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

7:00 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR



A DEVOTION FOR HOLY WEEK

***Jesus was deeply disturbed and declared, "In all truth I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."
John 13:21***

As I look more closely at Jesus' words as they are written in Greek, a better translation would be "One of you will hand me over." The term *paradidomi* means "to give over, to hand over, to give into the hands of." It is an important term not only to express what Judas did, but also what God did. Paul writes, "He did not spare his own Son, but 'handed him over' for the sake of all of us" (Romans 8:32). If we translate Judas's actions "to betray," as applied to Judas, we do not fully express the mystery because Judas is described as being an instrument of God's work. That is why Jesus said, "The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for the man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed [handed over]" (Matthew 26:24).

This moment when Jesus is handed over to those who do with him as they please is a turning point in Jesus' ministry. It is turning from action to passion. After years of teaching, preaching, healing, and moving to wherever he wanted to go, Jesus is handed over to the caprices of his enemies. Things are now no longer done *by* him, but *to* him. He is flagellated, crowned with thorns, spat at, laughed at, stripped, and nailed naked to a cross. He is a passive victim, subject to other people's actions. From the moment Jesus is handed over, his passion begins, and through this passion he fulfills his vocation.

It is good news to know that Jesus is handed over to passion, and through his passion accomplishes his divine task on earth. It is good news for a world passionately searching for wholeness. Jesus' words to Peter remind me that Jesus' transition from action to passion must also be ours if we want to follow his way. He says, "When you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go" (John 21:18).

I, too have to let myself be "handed over" and thus fulfill my vocation.

Handed Over: *Tuesday in Holy Week*
Passages from Henri Nouwen's
Show Me The Way



The Waters Do Not Save Us

Pastor's Article

My dad baptized me in the spring of 1977 in the First Baptist Church of Port Wentworth, Georgia. The large, open-spaced sanctuary was less than 10 years old. The baptistry sat up high above the choir like a window cut into the oak-stained wood paneling of the front of the church

As the pastor's son, I prided myself on knowing every space in the church. Over my years of growing up I discovered the unmarked doors in the upstairs education hallway which led to anterooms of the baptistry. White robes and stalls which I thought belonged to bathrooms made me wonder about the strange things which happen in this space. More than once, I walked into the empty baptistry, looking out over the vast sanctuary through the high, open window wondering what it would be like to be baptized.

On the day of my baptism, I came ready to be amazed by a magical experience. Instead, as I slipped on my white robe over my shorts everything seemed quite ordinary. I sat waiting when my dad, the pastor, came in late, put on fishing waders, and zipped up his robe. After a fast prayer, the service started, dad entered the water, and invited me to join him. I stood on a cinder block in the water looking out at the people staring at me. I do not remember any words my dad said. I do remember swimming back to the stairs to walk out.

On Sunday, we will celebrate an Easter Baptism. There will be plenty of logistics to make it happen. Letters sent, scriptures chosen, the baptistry cleaned and filled, the heater turned on, and ordinance members guiding the process.



For those sitting in worship, it will feel familiar. The pastor walking into the water, the candidate being immersed, and the service continuing forward. Baptism is quite ordinary. It's a moment of time and then gone.

And yet, the magic I imagined as a young boy is there. No, there's nothing magical about the water. The waters do not save us. What is magical if we give ourselves the opportunity to consider it is the power of its symbolism. Paul writes to the Romans *"Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life"* (Rom 6:4). Baptism connects us to Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter. Through each baptism we walk with Jesus through those days.

This week as we celebrate my second Easter with you, let us bring the memories of our baptism with us as a reminder of the new life we walk because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

I'll see you Sunday.

Eric

SCRIPTURE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

**He led them with a cloud by day:
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness:
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff:
and the waters gushed out like rivers.
But they went on sinning against him:
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.**

Psalm 78:14-17

PRAYER FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:
wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness:
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing:
at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing:
once again into our doors.**

Prayer from [Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals](#)

YOUTH & CHILDREN

@ VHBC

Youth Week

April 17-23

- Monday: Grill and Messy Game at 428
- Tuesday: After school Ice Cream at Bruster's.
- Wednesday: Battle of the Generations combined Wednesday session.
- Thursday: Progressive Dinner around Town.
- Friday: Chill day, no activities.
- Saturday: VHBC Youth to Birmingham Stallions Game.
- Sunday: Spring Serve

YOSE

- April 9th: Easter (No YOSE)
- April 16th: No YOSE
- April 23rd: YOSE Mission
- April 30th: YOSE Night Out (Youth Talent Show)

**Sign up for special events
at vhbc.com/youth**

Week of the Young Child

Every year we celebrate the **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** in the CDC.

This is an opportunity for all of us to recognize the importance of the early years, and work together to ensure all children have safe care and quality learning experiences that will help them succeed in school and beyond.

VBS at
VHBC
2023

TWISTS & TURNS

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME PSALM 25:4

**Join us for Vacation Bible School
June 12-15, 2023, from 9 am - noon!**

Children who are rising 1st graders through rising 5th grades welcome.

*Following Jesus Changes Everything!
"Make your ways known to me, Lord;
teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4*

**Join us Thursday, June 15
from 5-7 pm in the parking
lot for a fun Food Truck Party!**



Start



WORDS FROM DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



Good Friday and Easter - the days of God's overpowering acts in history, acts in which God's judgment and grace were revealed to all the world - are just around the corner.

Judgment in those hours in which Jesus Christ, our Lord, hung on the cross; grace in that hour in which death was swallowed up in victory.

**It was not human beings who accomplished anything here; no, God alone did it.
He came to human beings in infinite love.
He judged what is human.
And he granted grace beyond any merit.**



Sermon in Barcelona for the third
Sunday of Lent, March 11, 1928
from God is on the Cross: Reflections
on Lent and Easter

NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

APR 9

Dick Bodenhamer

APR 16

Jay McFarland

WORSHIP CARE (9:45 am until end of worship)

APR 9

Prissy Sumners, Ashley Hattaway, Kathryn Stewart, Marcia Spivey, Billie Lochamy, Virginia Wood, Mary Grace Cox, Shawn Perkins, Betsy Stockdale

APR 16

Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer, Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer,

WELCOME TEAM

APR 9/16

Sharon Hartzog
Howard Finch
Brandi Brownell
Larry Brownell
Dan Caldwell
Joe Perez
Lisa Speegle

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

APR 9 Craig Youngblood
Richard Horn

APR 16 Brent Warren
Scott Phillips

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

APR 9 Hal David, Dave Philpot, Lilie VanGiessen

APR 16 Pete LeBerte, Hal David, Brent Warren

WE CARE NEEDS YOU!

We Care is VHBC's homebound member ministry! This group meets monthly to send out cards, arrange gifts, and plan visits to our homebound members. If you are able and willing, please join them at their next meeting on May 1st at 10 am in the seminar room!

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH CONNECTIONS LUNCH

New visitors and guests are invited to lunch on April 16th after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office by April 12th. Childcare is available!



MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 10 AM

Starting April 19th, join Pastor Eric for a 4-week study in the Seminar Room.

Stay tuned for more details about this new series for Wednesday mornings!

WE NEED YOU!

July 10-13, 2023
Contact Laura Tadlock
at laura@vhbc.com to
register to serve!



SAVE THE DATE SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY SPRING LUNCHEON

May 2, 2023 at 11:30 am

\$10 at the door

Sign up online, in Bible Study class, or in the church office!



FOOD SERVICE TRANSITION

Leslie Cantrell is leaving her position with us to pursue an opportunity with another Food Service provider. She has been a great help to VHBC over the last two years in providing daily meals to our Child Development Center and preparing our Wednesday evening Fellowship Meals. We most appreciate her care for our church and its people and we wish Leslie the best as she makes this move. If you would like to reach out to Leslie to express best wishes, her email (leslie@vhbc.com) will remain open through the end of this month.





Easter Sunday

**All are welcome to join us in our
celebration of the risen Christ!**

Everyone is invited to bring flowers on Easter morning to adorn the cross on the church lawn in celebration of Jesus' resurrection.



Baptism Service at 10 am

We are also inviting those who have not celebrated believer's baptism to participate in our Easter Baptism Service. We invite anyone who believes in Jesus as their Lord. This is also a beautiful opportunity for anyone who wishes to make their first commitment to Jesus as Savior.

If you or someone in your family are interested in participating in this meaningful service or want to talk about your spiritual commitment to Jesus, please contact any of our ministers or reach out directly to Pastor Eric Spivey or our church office at 205.979.5920.

SPRING SERVE SUNDAY

April 23, 2023

Wear your work clothes & mission t-shirt!
Our worship will include mission engagement highlights & testimonials. Lunch will be served at 11 am and then mission teams will go forth on & off site!

Visit VHBC.COM 
to sign up for a mission project.

ONSITE

- Creating teacher gift bags for IME Slovakia
- Baking for Neighborhood Helpers
- Arranging flowers & visiting homebound members
- Cleaning CDC building

OFFSITE

- Firehouse Shelter
- Urban Ministries Birmingham
- Lovelady Center
- Bethany Home
- Choir Swap with Alpine Baptist Church

We hope to see you there!

PRAYER

IN THE HOSPITAL

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

ONGOING
TREATMENTS/RECOVERY

Brenda Ammons	Elizabeth McCarty
Linda Anderson	Gaynell Pinson
John Bell	Barbara Price
Mona Fisher	Dan Van Giessen
Robin Johnson	David Whitt

HOMEBOUND & WE CARE

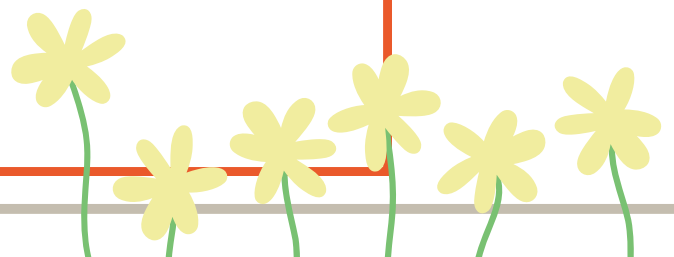
Juanita Blackburn	Dot Lowe
Libby Brown	Al Lowery
Ann Bush	Mary Lysaght
Mary Creech	Samson Mathangani
Jane Deagon	Kitty Newell
Franciska Dyck	Margaret Northrup
Esther Evans	Jerry & Lorelle
Milton Fullman	Singleton
Al & Shirley Furr	Jean Spivey
Pat Gillespie	Alicia Stigler
Sandy Gillis	Hazel Turner
Bob & Mavis Hardy	Betty Vanstrum
Ruford Hodges	Doris Wilson
Peggy Jones	
Charlotte Kyser	

MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD

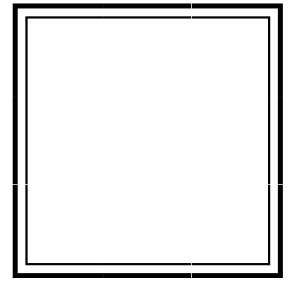
Dianne & Shane McNary - Slovakia
Awon Shanglai - India
Marco & Omar Vallejo - Mexico
Richard Owiti Kogola, Paul Mbogo, Benson
Mwangangi, & Josphat Thiori - Kenya
Chuck Tarter - Ireland
Kandy & Paul Huynh - Cambodia

**PLEASE SEND UPDATES
TO THE PRAYER LIST**

JENNIFER TIEHEN,
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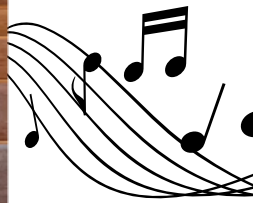
VHBC MINISTRY STAFF

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN
TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS
MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR
DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR
LAURA TADLOCK, MINISTRY ASSISTANT
MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

SHEPHERD

Concert at VHBC

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH



On Sunday, April 16th at 10 am,
the Music Ministry of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church presents
Musical Reflections on the Lord's Prayer for the annual Shepherd Memorial
Concert. This special worship concert features our own Sanctuary Choir and a
chamber orchestra made up of church members and community musicians.
Opening the concert will be an extended setting of the Lord's Prayer in Latin -
Pater Noster - by renowned composer Dan Forrest. This will be the
southeastern premiere of his glorious work. Following will be familiar choral
anthems that amplify phrases of the Lord's Prayer: "The Majesty and Glory of
Your Name," "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," and others. The program
will conclude with an exciting setting of the Lord's Prayer in Swahili and the
timeless version by Albert Malotte.

