

# VHBC Connections

March 7, 2023  
Vol. 30 Iss. 5



## Opportunities for Senior Adults

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This issue is full of events,  
Bible studies, and fellowship  
opportunities for our VHBC  
senior adults!



# Journey

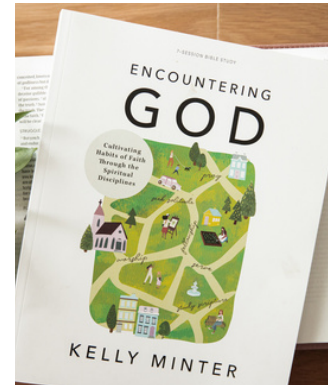
THROUGH

# Lent

## Ways to Connect during Lent

### Women's Bible Study

Women are invited to join a 7-week study, *Encountering God* by Kelly Minter with opportunities to join on Sunday evenings at 6 pm or Tuesday mornings at 10 am.



### Adult Bible Study

Dennis Anderson will be leading a Wednesday morning Bible study, starting Wednesday, March 1st - **Seven Days that Changed the World: The Last Week in the Life of Christ.** Meetings will start at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

### Bible Study for College Students

**Journey Thru Lent, a student-centered gathering** is an opportunity for our local college students to join us at VHBC for dinner and Bible study Wednesday in March. Alexis Johnson will be facilitating this great group of students at 6 pm in the Young Adult classroom (next to the library).



## LENTEN SCHEDULE

- *Ash Wednesday*  
February 22, 2023 at 6 pm
- *Palm Sunday*  
April 2, 2023 at 10 am
- *Maundy Thursday*  
April 6, 2023 at 6 pm
- *Good Friday*  
April 7, 2023 at 11 am
- *Easter*  
April 9, 2023 at 10 am

Sign up at  
[vhbc.com/lent](http://vhbc.com/lent)



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## Be a part of the ministry of VHBC!

Partners in Ministry  
Offer your gift alongside fellow members! Find your first place of service or connect with a new ministry.

Deacon Suggestions  
Take a few moments and review our list of church members and submit your suggestions for the coming year's deacon nominations.

WORDS FROM DIETRICK BONHOEFFER  
FOR LENT

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First, we must completely forget how to say, "I will," until God, through the Holy Spirit, teaches us to say it in a new and right way. It is precisely in matters of piety that "I will" can wreak the greatest havoc: "I will be godly, I will be holy, I will keep the commandments." We must first have a basic understanding that in these things, it is not our will but God's will alone that matters. We must also forgo our pious self, so that God can do his work in us. Otherwise our "I will" will almost certainly be followed by bankruptcy. But when through God's grace we have stopped saying, "I will," when through God's new beginning with us in Jesus Christ we have been brought onto his path - in spite of our "I will" and "I won't" - then the Holy Spirit begins to speak in us, we say something quite new and different from our previous "I will."

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*God is on the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter*



# 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](http://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



# JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

## Guest Preacher on March 26th

Rev. Dr. Tyshawn Gardner

Rev. Gardner currently serves as Associate Professor in the Biblical and Religious Studies Department and Director of the Pre-Ministerial Scholars Program at Samford University. Rev. Gardner also serves as an adjunct professor at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, KY. Rev. Gardner served as the Senior Pastor of Plum Grove Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for 19 years (2003-2022), he also served as the President of the Tuscaloosa Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) from 2016-2019. He is married to Shonetay Gardner, and they have 4 children, Coretta (Corey), Tristan, Titus, and Tyson and 3 beautiful grandchildren.



## Palm Sunday April 2

Families with children (kindergarten - sixth grade) are invited to *Walk with Jesus: A Palm Sunday experience* on April 2 from 8:45-9:45 am in the Children's Building. Children are invited to process into worship waving palm branches and sing. If you would like your child to participate, please have them meet in the Chapel at 9:45 am. At 4:30 pm, **William Carey University Chorale** will be performing in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to attend!

## Maundy Thursday



Please join us for dinner and a special Maundy Thursday communion service on April 6th. Dinner will be served from 4:45-5:45 and the service will be held in the Sanctuary. The next day we will serve lunch at 11 am, followed by a Good Friday service at 12 pm in the Sanctuary.

& Good Friday



## April 9

All are welcome to join us in our celebration of the risen Christ! Worship begins at 10 am and families are invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross on the lawn. We are also inviting those who have not celebrated believer's baptism to participate in our Easter Baptism Service.

# Easter



LENTEN HYMN

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Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise us and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till our our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and  
fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

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*"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,"  
John Greenleaf Whittier*

# Senior Adult Team

We are back! The Senior Adult Ministry Team reconvened in the fall of 2022 with the exciting mission to engage senior adults in ministry, education, fellowship, and entertainment. We were excited and encouraged by the great turnout and participation for our November speaker's luncheon featuring Jim Brown and our December Christmas celebration with great food, fellowship, and staff-led program.

As we ventured into 2023, we enjoyed a great Game Day in February! But we are just getting started!



The team: Ron Smith, Ginny Bugg, Laura Tadlock, Sheryl Buckner, Becky Griffith (not pictured: Monica Burson, George Elliott, Linda Griggs, & Sharon Hartzog)



# Movie Matinee

Tuesday, March 28th

This month we will be hosting a movie matinee in the Fellowship Hall, featuring the classic 1942 film, Casablanca! Bring a friend and enjoy a leisurely afternoon of popcorn and a movie!



Save the date for our **Spring Luncheon on May 2nd** which will feature a great meal and entertainment! We are excited to invite you all to participate in these wonderful happenings. If you have ideas or suggestions, please reach out to one of the members of our SAM team or Laura Tadlock ([laura@vhbc.com](mailto:laura@vhbc.com)). Our hope is to provide different opportunities for connection and community! Be on the lookout for information coming soon on summer day excursions and overnight getaways. Come and join us!



*Thank you, VHBC!*



Eric &  
Marcia Spivey

Last Saturday, Marcia and I finally moved into our new home at 2505 Skyland Drive in Vestavia Hills! This means we also moved out of the Hardy House. It's been a long year of transition so we are very excited to be sitting on our couches, using our dishes, and opening boxes like its Christmas morning.

We want to thank the church and Hardy House committee for the use of the Hardy House. During the interim, the committee renovated the house for the new pastor - before they knew our names. As the initial recipients of their hard work, we celebrate the gift of their vision and work and look forward to the individuals and families who will benefit in the future.

The Hardy House is named after Bob & Mavis Hardy, retired missionaries to Japan, sacred partners of VHBC and parents of Cathy Compher. The dining room of the house contains a beautiful Japanese-inspired mural painted by Mavis. The house served as the original parsonage of the church in the 1960s before being sold. Around 2000, the church purchased the house again. Since then it has served as the youth house (before the addition of the student wing), hosted missionaries, guest pastors, and interns, and provided transition housing for new staff members.

The newly renovated Hardy House, a wonderful ministry of our church, will provide hospitality and a home for many in the years ahead. Thank you again for the opportunity to live, celebrate holidays, and get settled in the Hardy House for the last 10 months. You have loved and blessed our family. Thank you.

## The Hardy House



# PASTOR'S ARTICLE

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Over the last year, we have focused the ministry of our church on our theme of ANEW. We celebrated Discipleship ANEW in the Fall, Worship ANEW during Advent, and Fellowship ANEW during Epiphany. During Lent, we are focused on Mission ANEW.

While our methods of missions have evolved over the decades, the mission of God has remained the same since the beginning of scripture. God's mission begins at the beginning. In the shadow of the betrayal of the garden in Genesis 3, God calls Abram in Genesis 12 to both receive a blessing and to be a blessing to the people of the world. God's mission is woven throughout the rest of scripture. Jesus comes to fulfill God's purpose and reconcile humanity with our Creator. Jesus then sends his followers into the world as agents of this reconciliation and his kingdom.

Church history is filled with stories of how individuals and churches have struggled to understand and fulfill this divine mission. Beginning in the late 1700's in England, a new missionary movement emerged among Baptists and other protestants. With the world open to travel, individuals traveled to difficult places on earth to bear witness to the life and light of Jesus Christ.

One of my favorite missionaries during this time was Adoniram Judson and his wife, Ann. The Judsons traveled to Burma in 1812, sent by the Congregational Church of new England. By the time they arrived they switched to being Baptists. When Adoniram died in 1850, he had spent 37 years abroad introducing Jesus to the Karen people of Burma. Over the past few decades many of the Karen people have been forced out of their country arriving in the states as refugees. They have sought out Baptist churches because the faith they received from the Judson's continues through today. They are now leading churches which once sent missionaries to serve them.

One of my favorite missionaries during this time was Adoniram Judson and his wife, Ann. The Judsons traveled to Burma in 1812, sent by the Congregational Church of new England. By the time they arrived they switched to being Baptists. When Adoniram died in 1850, he had spent 37 years abroad introducing Jesus to the Karen people of Burma. Over the past few decades many of the Karen people have been forced out of their country arriving in the states as refugees. They have sought out Baptist churches because the faith they received from the Judson's continues through today. They are now leading churches which once sent missionaries to serve them.

Mission ANEW invites to see the story of God's mission at work in the world today. Mission is evangelism, community service, faith-based community development, radical hospitality, good news sharing and much more.



It happens in Vestavia Hills and in Matagalpa, Nicaragua; in Lucenec, Slovakia and the Westside of Birmingham. Whenever we engage in mission we are engaging in God's work in that place.

In April, we will experience Spring Serve ANEW on Sunday, April 23. In an effort to invite each sacred partner of VHBC to engage God's Mission we will connect worship and mission. On that day, we will worship together, eat together and serve together. There will be an opportunity for each person - regardless of age and ability - to learn about mission and serve in God's Kingdom. There will opportunities at the church and opportunities in the community. Let me encourage you to make all efforts to participate in this fun, impactful day of service. You will meet new people and try new things and be encouraged by the mission of God.

Until then, I hope you will join me on Wednesday nights as we study Mission ANEW and look at what it means today to be on mission with God in the world.

You are loved.

Eric

SAVE THE DATE

Spring  
SERVE  
DAY

Sunday,  
April 23rd



# YOUTH & CHILDREN

@ VHBC

## Firehouse Shelter

This week, our youth will be serving our homeless neighbors at the Firehouse Shelter. Youth are asked to sign up in order to attend (space is limited). They are leaving at 5:40 pm and will return at 8 pm.

## Special Events

for Youth

- IME Training, March 19th at 11 am
- Mission Madness, April 14-16, 2023 in Columbus, GA.
- Youth Week, April 16-22
- 7th-9th grade Beach Retreat, July 5-9, 2023

**Sign up [vhbc.com/youth](https://vhbc.com/youth)**

## Palm Sunday

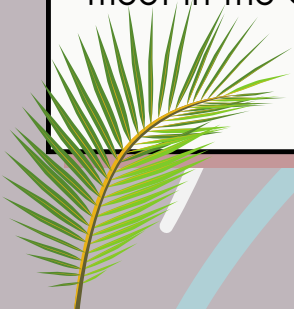
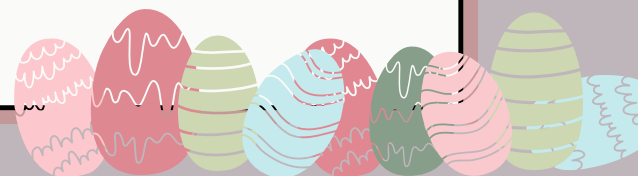
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## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8 at 10 am  
Church Lawn

Don't forget your basket!





# WEDNESDAYS AT VHBC

## Fellowship Supper

Meals are served in the Fellowship Hall from 4:45 - 5:45 pm and can be pre-ordered/paid online or in person on Wednesdays.

Pricing:

Adults \$6

Kids \$4

Preschool \$0

College \$0

## Menu

3/8: Smoked sausage & tortellini pasta salad, garlic bread, dessert (kids: pizza, fries, dessert)

3/15: Chicken Cordon Bleu w/maple mustard sauce, green beans, roll, & dessert (kids: chicken fingers, baked fries, dessert)

3/22: Salsa Verde Chicken Casserole, Mexican street corn casserole, chips, salsa, & guacamole, dessert (kids: beef tacos, corn, dessert)



## Wednesday Sessions during Lent

### ► Lenten Sessions

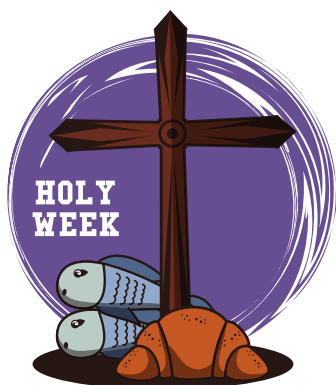
Continuing through March

**Mission Anew** in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Eric Spivey. He is outlining our mission in God's kingdom throughout the month of March.

**Freeing Jesus** by Diana Butler Bass book study with Melissa McBrayer in the Wild Goose classroom.

**Contemplative Prayer** in the Chapel with George Van Kirk continues at 6 pm each Wednesday evening.

NO WEDNESDAY SESSIONS ON MARCH 29TH & APRIL 5TH



**Maundy Thursday** in the Fellowship Hall for supper from 4:45 - 5:45 and a communion service the sanctuary following.

**Good Friday** in the Fellowship Hall for supper from 4:45 - 5:45 and a communion service the sanctuary following.

# NEWS & EVENTS

## VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

### CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

**MAR 12**

Brenda Ammons

**MAR 19**

Jerri Pare'

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

**MAR 12**

Babies & Creepers: Millie Ehrett, Sharon Hartzog  
Walking Ones - Threes: Faye Suggs, Maggie Doss  
Fours - K: Kevin Jaquess, Isabel Jaquess

**MAR 19**

Babies & Creepers: Alexis Johnson, Sara McFarland  
Walking Ones - Threes: Samuel Nordlund  
Fours - K: Brenda Ammons, Jan Deagon

### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP CARE

Please consider signing up to help us fill the roster of Worship Care teachers. Volunteers can serve once-a-month, once every-other-month, or every fifth Sunday. Serving in worship care is a great way to serve at VHBC and get to know our families with young children. Call or [email](mailto:email) Nancy to learn more and volunteer today!

### WELCOME TEAM

**MAR 12/19**

Sharon Hartzog  
Carolyn Slappey  
Brandi Brownell  
Larry Brownell  
Dan Caldwell  
Chuck Gillespie  
LaRue Gillespie  
Sharon Repp  
Fred Olive

### TRANSPORTATION TEAM

**MAR 12** Mike Craddock  
William Dupree

**MAR 19** Julia Duffy  
Barton Duffy

### WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

**MAR 12** Dan McMurray, Brent Warren, Lilie Van Giessen

**MAR 19** Hal David, Dan McMurray, David Philpot

WELCOME!



Having spent most of his youth at Vestavia Hills Baptist, joining the church, along with his wife, Laura, was like coming home for Adam Casey. Adam and Laura have known each other since high school, although there is some debate on whether they dated during those years or not. Not up for debate is the fact that they will celebrate their 15th anniversary in May. They have two adorable daughters, Lilly Mae, age 9, and Reddin, age 6.

Adam graduated from Alabama and works in the safety department of a transportation company. Laura got her undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech. She is a teacher and assistant athletic director at Vestavia Hills High School. They host Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings for high school girls at their home every other week. From working in the yard to camping and hiking, the Caseys relish being outdoors. They enjoy attending and watching sporting events for their own children as well as those at the high school and college level. Adam also enjoys cooking, although Laura does not share his passion.

When I asked both Adam and Laura to reveal an interesting thing about themselves, I was impressed with their answers. Adam is an Eagle Scout and Laura has degrees from 4 colleges - Virginia Tech, Auburn, Montevallo, and Samford. Wow!



### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, March 16  
11 am  
Newk's Vestavia



# PRAYER

IN THE HOSPITAL  
Roger Bates - UAB Neuro ICU

UPCOMING PROCEDURES  
Elizabeth McCarty - March 7

ONGOING  
TREATMENTS/RECOVERY

Linda Anderson    Barbara Price  
John Bell            Dan Van Giessen  
Libby Brown  
Mona Fisher  
Robin Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS  
Haley & Josh Crosby upon the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Kate, on Friday, March 3rd. Proud grandparents are Hal & Liz David.

## HOMEBOUND & WE CARE

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

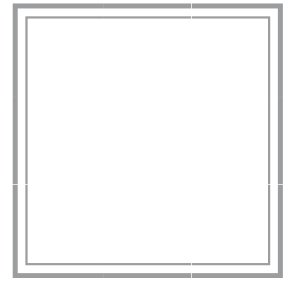
## MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD

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**

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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



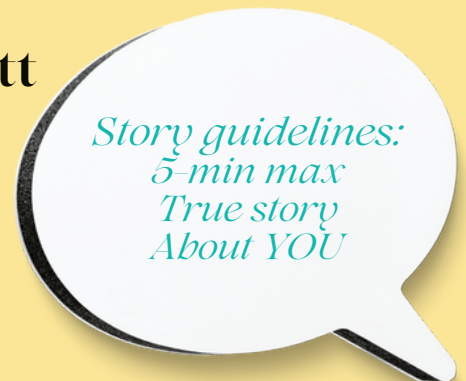
**ORDER EASTER FLOWERS TODAY!  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR RESERVE  
ONLINE FOR \$20/EACH.**

# Stories to reckon with

*a moth radio hour  
-inspired event*



**Sunday, March 19th at 5 pm**  
**VHBC Fellowship Hall**  
**Admission: \$10**  
**Host: George Elliott**



**Everyone is invited! Food will be  
served and childcare is available!**  
**Register at [vhbc.com/stories](http://vhbc.com/stories)**