

OCTOBER  
17, 2023

**vhbc**

C O N N E C T I O N S



# A Story for 2024

I feel fairly confident in saying that you have never heard anyone utter the words, "Have you read any good budgets lately?" We just don't think of budgets in this way. Even for those who may celebrate a good budget, the budgets themselves are often appreciated for their clarity, precision, or comprehensiveness. But what about the stories they tell?

As our Budget Planning Committee brings our church's Ministry Budget together, they are collecting the visions of what the next year may hold from a host of ministry leaders and church committees who have prayed and envisioned how we might live out our calling. These various "authors" propose the story of a year to come filled with ministry, mission, fellowship, and worship.

As we read the numbers on the page, with the imagination of a good reader, we can see our sanctuary choir receiving new music for an upcoming worship service, or the countless church members setting up classrooms and preparing lessons for Vacation Bible School. We can picture our youth traveling to Passport Camp or the missionaries we support providing medical care, planting churches, and welcoming refugees.

We can also recognize ourselves in the story, sharing with one another in Bible study or around the dinner tables on Wednesday evenings. Can't you see yourself at next year's Ash Wednesday service, Spring Serve, Shepherd Concert, Shrimp Boil, Mom's Retreat, or Senior Adult Game Day?



Perhaps the best part of this story is that we get to live it together, not exactly as we may have predicted it, but as God brings it about among us. But we are not there just yet. For now, we are called to be coauthors of the **VHBC 2024** story as we make our pledges for the coming year. Please take the time today to make your pledge today.

**Mike**



Use the link **[HERE](#)**, email the finance office ([jamie@vhbc.com](mailto:jamie@vhbc.com)), or return your pledge card in person to the church office.

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# CONTENTS

## A STORY FOR 2024

Featured article by Mike McBrayer

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Like this month, November is filled with events here and away.

## GRATITUDE & RECOGNITION

We are thankful.

## EVENTS IN PROGRESS

October's not over yet, and it's not slowing down anytime soon.

## SUNDAYS AT VHBC

## OCTOBER GIVING AT VHBC

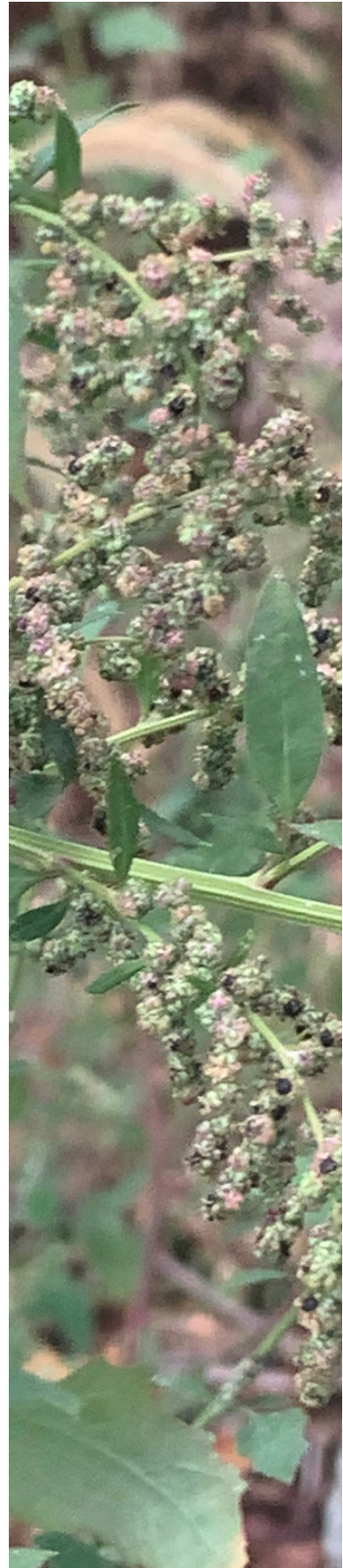
Budget Needed: \$148,531.00

Offering to Date: \$68,764.00

YTD Budget Needed: \$1,439,592.00

YTD Offering: \$1,240,286.00

Difference: **(\$199,286.00)**



# ON THE HORIZON

## Wednesday Sessions at VHBC

Starting November 1st, a new round of sessions begin!

- Baking with Jess Nix
- Fall Crafts with Sara McFarland
- November Bible Study

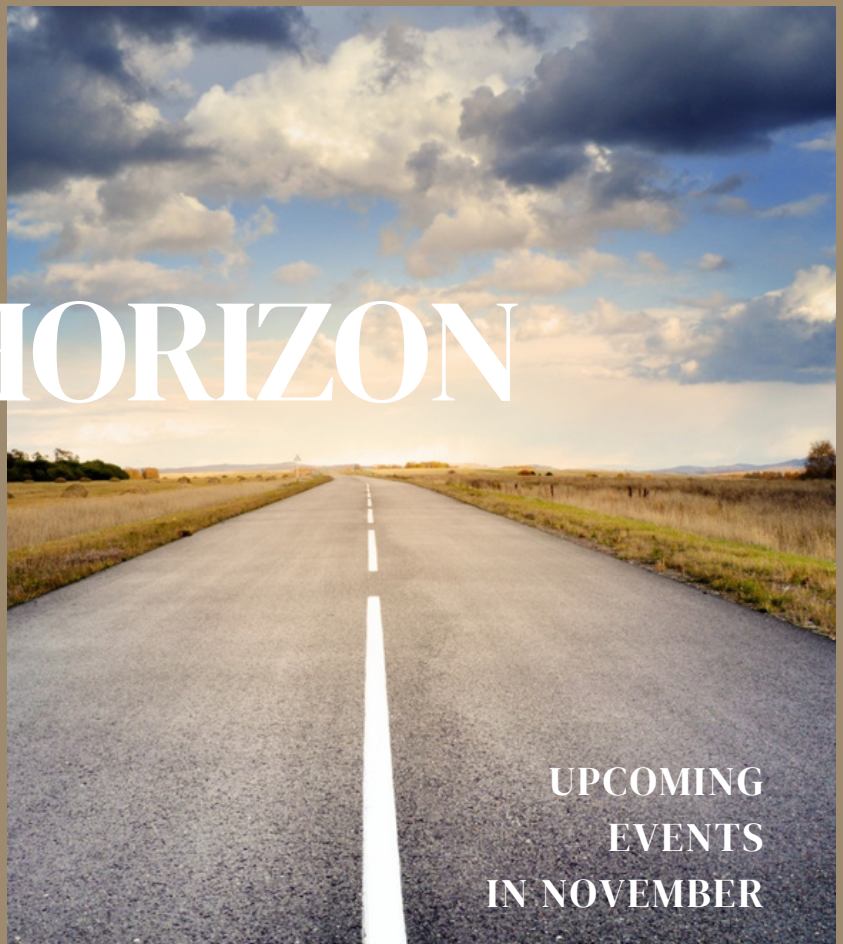
## Grief Support Group

Fridays in November with Laura Tadlock

Anyone who has experienced loss is welcome to come and find fellowship, support, and comfort. We will learn from one another by sharing our stories and find solace in the words of authors that guide us on this journey of grief and healing. Please reach out to [laura@vhbc.com](mailto:laura@vhbc.com) with any questions. Call the church office or go online to sign up.

## All Saints Sunday

As part of worship on November 5, the congregation will observe All Saints Sunday. We'll offer remembrances of family and friends we have held so dear. This will be a meaningful time to recall and give thanks for those saints who've gone before us.



Thursday, November 2, 2023 12 pm  
Celebrating 30 Years of Alabama CBF  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church  
[REGISTER](#)



Friday, November 3rd from 6-8 pm  
Babies through 6th graders are invited for pizza, fruit, and ice cream! Games, music, and fun!

# GRATITUDE

## THANKS TO SAM HARRELL

for sharing about Africa Exchange this past Sunday. If you missed hearing about the mission and ministry of Africa Exchange check our website at [vhbc.com/missions](http://vhbc.com/missions) to see the transformation work of our VHBC mission partner in Kenya.

## FALL SERVE

Thank you so much to all who volunteered their time and efforts on Saturday, October 14th for our Fall Serve Day. We packed 10,000 meals, stuffed 100 teacher gift bags, and sent volunteers to help organize clothing at Lovelady Thrift in Irondale and tidy gardens at Urban Ministry.

We have also donated over **2,000** diapers and wipes to Bundles of Hope. Let's double that number before the end of the month!

# RECOGNITION

## A THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE PHILPOTS

David and I want to thank you for the support, love, and kindness you have shown our family throughout the years we have been a part of VHBC. When I joined almost I was looking for somewhere I could have extended family since our family was not near by and you have provided that for us. I will never forget that first Sunday I visited in 1984. Mrs. Edfeldt sat with me in the congregation, and Dick and Mindy Bodenhamer watched my son, Drew in the baby room. (Drew is now almost 40.) Thank you for helping raise our four children into responsible happy adults and thank you for supporting us as we went through the many trials of life and giving us guidance to grow and keep our faith.

David and I also want to thank you for the love you showed David's parents when they transitioned to Birmingham from Mobile. It was a hard move for them, but your kindness helped them and helped David and me with the troubles that came with their aging. David's parents loved their WeCare visits, and I will never forget running into Jennifer Carter when David's mom was at St. Vincent's in the emergency room and she gave me a parking pass. It was something small, but a big gift for me.

David and I wish we could thank everyone in person, but please know we really appreciate all of the love you have shown us over the years. We are very sad to move, but we know this must be the next step in our lives. We will miss you. Come and visit. South Carolina is not that far away, and we will be coming back every so often as David continues to participate in the long-hauler Covid clinic at UAB. We hope to see you then.

With a thankful heart,  
Liz Philpot (Clemson, SC)

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the page features several pumpkins of various colors (white, yellow, orange) resting on a dark wooden surface. The pumpkins are arranged vertically, with a white one at the top, followed by a yellow one, and several orange ones at the bottom.

# EVENTS IN PROGRESS

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This week at VHBC

## **Morning Prayer on Zoom**

Join our prayer group online at 7 am.

## **Midweek Bible Study**

Eric begins a new study on Bible Geography 101 in the Seminar Room this Wednesday morning at 10 am. Learn about the Holy Land in this 4-week series.

## **Fellowship Supper**

10/18 menu: Asian Braised Chicken Thighs, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Peanut Butter Bars

Prices: Adults \$7, Children \$5, Preschoolers/College students eat free!

## **Wednesday Sessions**

- Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel
- Walking in Prayer with Laura Casey (Meet under the porte cochere & wear sneakers)
- Rod Marshall will be speaking about Alabama Baptist Children's Homes in the Fellowship Hall

## **SAM Game Day**

This Friday, October 20th from 10 am - 2 pm  
Bring your own lunch and get ready to play!

## **VHHS Churchwide Tailgate**

Join our youth and other VHBC friends as they cheer on our athletes, band members, and more for this Friday's game. Tailgate starts at 4:30 pm - look for the big VHBC Youth sign!

## **Mom's Brunch**

This Saturday, October 21st at 9:30 am in the Children's Activity Room our VHBC moms will gather for a time of delicious food, fellowship, and flowers!

# OCTOBER EVENTS

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Next Week at VHBC

## **Morning Prayer on Zoom**

Join our prayer group online at 7 am!

## **Midweek Bible Study**

Eric continues his study on Bible Geography 101 in the Seminar Room this Wednesday morning at 10 am.

## **Fellowship Supper**

10/25 menu: Beef chili, Jalapeno Cornbread, Fritos, Pumpkin Pie Bar

Prices: Adults \$7, Children \$5, Preschoolers/College students eat free!

## **Wednesday Sessions**

- Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel
- Walking in Prayer with Laura Casey (Meet under the porte cochere & wear sneakers)
- Melissa Pouncey and Lynda Wilson will be speaking about Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Mission Partner Meal at Dolly Ridge Elementary**

Be in prayer for our missions team as they serve the teachers and staff of Dolly Ridge Elementary on Friday, October 27th.

**CHILDREN'S  
SABBATH**

10 AM

**& fallfest**

4-6 PM

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**





# SUNDAYS AT VHIBC

## **Sunday Morning Bible Study 8:45 am**

Find our Welcome Team in the main foyer if you need assistance looking for a class for you and your family.

Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Building. Please sign your child in at the front reception desk.

## **Worship in the Sanctuary 10 am**

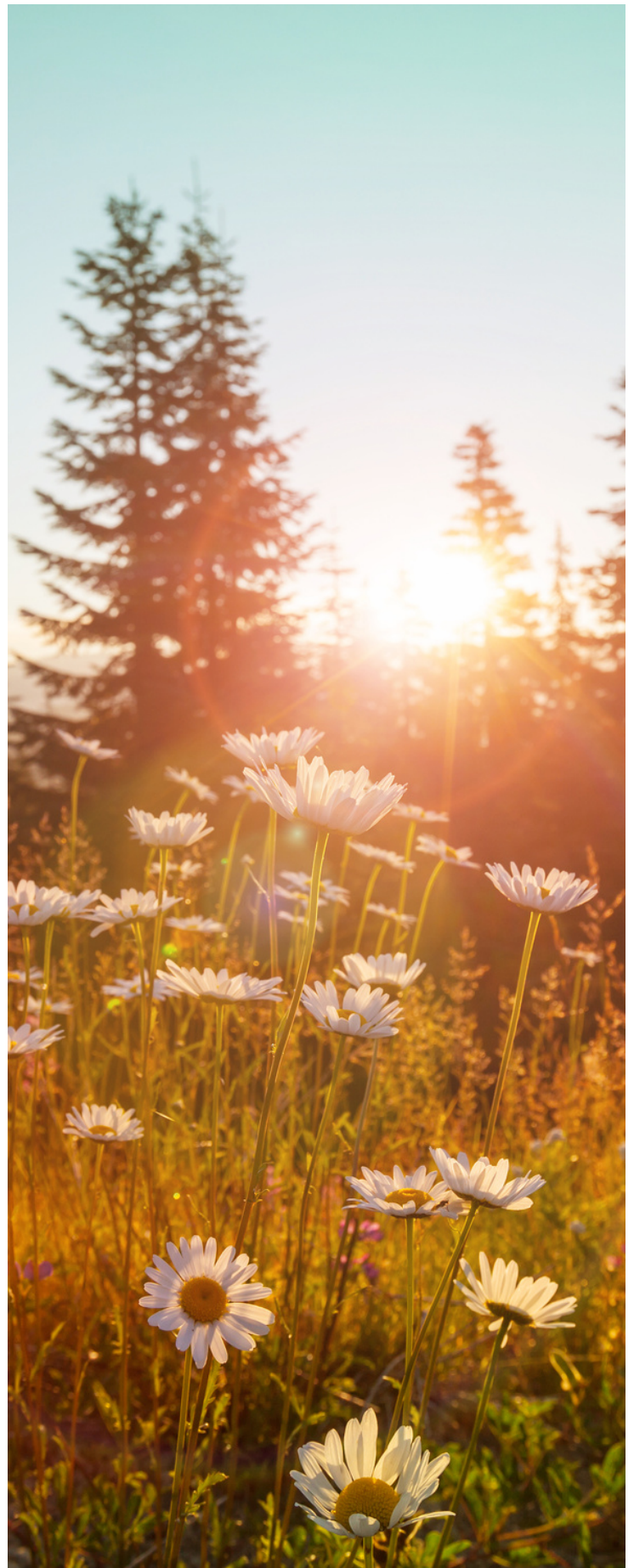
Worship guides and hymn sheets are available at the sanctuary entrances.

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.

## **Youth on Sunday Evening 5 pm**

All youth meet in the Student Building to play games, listen to a devotion, and prepare for the upcoming week.  
(During the Fall/Spring)



# VOLUNTEERS at VHBC



## ● Worship Care

10/22: Lisa Speegle, Brandi Brownell, Cathy Donze, Abbey Donze, Adam & Melissa Pouncey, Virginia Wood  
10/29: Amy Gillis, Caroline Nordlund, Maria Madden, Hadley McFarland, David & Cathy Compher, Barbara Kimbrel

## ● Worship Tech Team

10/22: Greg Ruff, Hal David, and Dan VanGiessen  
10/29: Lilie VanGiessen, Norfleete Day, and Hal David

## ● Welcome Team

10/22: Joe Perez, George Elliott, Carolyn Slappey, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Howard Finch, Kathy Finch, Jason Cooper  
10/29: Sharon Hartzog, George Elliott, Carolyn Slappey, Joe Perez, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lauren Hartzog, Sharon Repp, Jason Cooper

## ● Deacons

10/22: Jess Nix and Caroline Nordlund  
10/29: Joe Perez and Milburn Price

## ● Flower & Decor

10/22: Jennifer Carter and Jennifer Stenbridge  
10/29: Melissa McMurray

## ● Transportation Team

10/22: Brent Warren and Tommy Cherry  
10/29: Ken Farley and Craig Youngblood

## ● Counting Team

10/22: George Pare' and Rachel Jordan  
10/29: Bob Booth and Kristie Chandler

# vhbc

## CONNECTIONS

A Bi-weekly Newsletter for  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



2600 Vestavia Drive  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216  
www.vhbc.com

### Ministry Staff

Nancy Akins	Minister to Preschool & Children
Sara Binet	Interim Student Coordinator
Mike McBrayer	Administrative Pastor
Dr. Eric Spivey	Senior Pastor
Laura Tadlock	Senior Adult & Adult Ministries Coordinator
Marty Watts	Minister of Music & Worship

# SAM

events in December

Dec 1  
11:30 am

SAM Christmas Luncheon  
Fellowship Hall  
\$10/per person

Join us for a wonderful meal  
and holiday entertainment!

Dec 16  
2 pm

Holiday Spectacular  
Red Mountain Theatre  
\$40/per person

Please sign up online  
and pay in the church office.