

April 5, 2022 | Volume 29 Issue 7

# VHBC Connections



Vestavia Hills  
Baptist Church  
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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# AT VHBC

APRIL 10-17, 2022



PALM SUNDAY

Families are invited to a *Walk with Jesus* at the Children's Building at 8:45 am, where they will explore Jesus' life the week before his resurrection. Celebrate Palm Sunday during worship with our children's choirs at 10 am.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us on Thursday, April 14th instead of Wednesday for our observance of Maundy Thursday at VHBC. Dinner will be served from 4:45-5:45 pm, followed by Communion service with families at 6 pm. Childcare will be provided for babies - K.



GOOD FRIDAY

Join us for lunch on April 15th at 11 am, followed by a Good Friday service at noon in the sanctuary.

All are welcome.



EASTER SUNDAY

Join us for Easter services on April 17th at 10 am. Our new Senior Pastor, Dr. Eric Spivey will be leading worship.



# Ukrainian Refugee Offering

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, for the end of war, for the afflicted to be comforted, and for peace and justice to prevail. We give thanks to God for those who are giving hands on support to the Ukrainian people, including the churches of Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Your gifts to date to the Ukrainian Refugee Offering of **\$13,925.00** are already at work through our partners, Shane and Dianne McNary. The McNarys are grateful to be in a position to support the work of churches in Poland and Slovakia as they respond to those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

[Give Online Here](#)

Note "Ukraine Offering" with your gifts or give through Shelby Next and designate the Ukraine Offering.





Worship  
with us!

## Weekly Schedule at VHBC

### Sunday

- |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:45 am  | Bible Studies for All Ages     |
| 10:00 am | Worship                        |
| 5:00 pm  | YOSE - Youth on Sunday Evening |

### Wednesday

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 7:00 am | Prayer Breakfast on ZOOM                            |
| 4:45 pm | Fellowship Dinner until 5:45 pm                     |
| 5:00 pm | Handbells   |
| 5:30 pm | Children's Choirs                                   |
| 6:00 pm | Youth Activities                                    |
| 6:15 pm | Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir                                     |

Online Calendar at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)

# Sundays at VHBC

## Sunday Morning Bible Study begins at 8:45 am!

- 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.

## Sunday Morning Worship begins at 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.

## COVID Response at VHBC

- With the recent decreases in transmission and test positivity rates in our community, the COVID Response Committee is shifting its guidance to **masks encouraged** for activities at the church.
- It's our hope that these trends continue as we experience this exciting time in the life of our church.



# Wednesdays at VHBC

## Wednesday Night Dinners

- 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!

### Menu for April 6th

Adults/Youth: Flatbread Pizza (Meat Lovers or Pesto Chicken), Onion Rings, Garden Salad, & Dessert

Kids: Same as adult menu

### Menu for April 14th

Adults/Youth: Broccoli & Cheese Quiche or Bacon & Cheese Quiche, French Toast, Tater Tots, Fruit Salad, Dessert

Kids: Same as adult menu

## Wednesday Sessions for Adults

- **April 6th** - Contemplative Prayer with George Van Kirk concludes in the Chapel and Kristie Chandler will conclude the series "Fixer Upper-Relationship Renovations" in the Fellowship Hall.
- **April 13th** - No Wednesday night activities due to Holy Week (Check page 3 for Holy Week schedule at VHBC)
- **April 20th** - Quarterly Business Meeting at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

# NEW LIFE

PASTOR ERIC SPIVEY



One year when our girls were little, a butterfly hit our windshield as we flew down the interstate. Rather than slide over the roof, the wind trapped the butterfly in our wiper blades. The butterfly's wings flapped violently unable to break free. The mood in the car grew somber as everyone's attention focused on the butterfly's plight in front of us.

With little girl pleadings from the backseat, I pulled off the next interstate exit to remove the butterfly and allow us to continue our journey. When I stopped in the Wendy's parking lot, everyone piled out of the minivan to give honor to the butterfly's life. I prepared myself to explain death to little girls with the smell of greasy burgers in the air.

When I pulled the butterfly off the windshield and placed it into my hand, something extraordinary occurred. The butterfly's wings began to slowly move and suddenly, it took off into the air, drifting between the four of us before the dazzling yellows of its wings glided out of sight. The family mood transformed – what we thought was dead was alive. One of our girls exclaimed in celebration, "Daddy, this is like Easter." Then, "You need to use it as a sermon illustration." Yes, they grew up as preacher's kids!

Next week, we will celebrate Holy Week and Easter together for the first time as pastor and church. We will remember Jesus in the Upper Room around the Fellowship Hall tables on Maundy Thursday. We will gather for lunch and worship on Good Friday, walking through the pain of Jesus' death. Then, on Easter Sunday, April 17, we will celebrate the resurrection together for the first time. Like the butterfly floating away, Easter reminds us to never count God out. During the darkest of hours, God still surprises us.

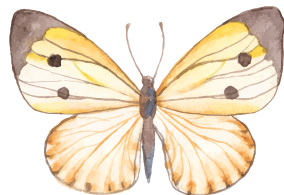


How has God surprised you since last Easter? I never expected to be celebrating God's resurrection with you.

How are you praying for God to surprise you this Easter? I am praying for the Lord to surprise our church with new life, new energy, and new focus. Let's look for God's Spirit alive in us in during this Easter season.

I'll see you on Easter Sunday.

Eric



## ON THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR ERIC

The claps of your welcome as Marcia and I walked back into the sanctuary on our February call Sunday still ring in my ears as I reflect on beginning ministry at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, April 17th. That moment has energized us over the last month of transition in Gainesville. The joy of anticipation resonates in our lives.

As we prepare to begin our ministry together, let me share some notes from our transition.

First, thank you for your prayers and introductions. Over the month of March, Marcia and I felt the warmth of your prayers, lifting us up during the arduous work of transition. At the same time, we loved getting to know you through your emails, texts, videos, and social media. You have become more than names and faces – you have become friends and sacred partners. Thank for you for these gifts and please continue!



Second, we will be moving in stages to Birmingham. My final Sunday in Gainesville will be on April 10th. Marcia and I will celebrate Easter weekend in Birmingham as I visit assisted living facilities for Mama Jean and Marcia interviews for teaching positions. We will return to Florida after the weekend to get ready for our move.

I will move into the Hardy House and into my church office during the week of April 25th. I will preach on May 1st and my first day in the church office will be May 2nd.

During the month of May, I will live in Birmingham and Marcia will remain in Florida to finish the school year with her 5th grade students. I'll move Mama Jean to Alabama during May.

On Memorial Day, I will return to Gainesville to pack our things, close on our house, and move. By the first Sunday of June all of us and our stuff will be in Alabama! Praise the Lord.

As you can tell, this will be an intense time of getting started, moving, and settling in. Let me encourage you to continue those prayers you began in February. All has gone so well up to this point; we expect it to continue as we complete our move.

Finally, my first goal as the new pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will be hearing your story and becoming your pastor. Let's get started in May. I would love to visit with you over a meal, spend time in your home, take a walk or hike with you, or experience a special place in Birmingham with you. Feel free to begin reaching out after Easter to set up a time for us to visit together. You matter to me. I look forward to journeying with you in the years to come.

You are loved!

Eric



# VHBC KIDS

Spring  
'22



MS. NANCY

## Sunday Worship Care Schedule 4/10

Babies & Ones: Melissa McMurray, Ashley Hattaway

Twos - K: Todd & Rachel Jordan

Reception Desk: Jay McFarland

## 4/17

Babies & Ones: Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer

Twos - K: Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer

Reception Desk: Dick Bodenhamer

## WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm  
Children's Choir  
Rehearsal

5:45 pm  
Childcare for babies-3s.

6:15 pm  
Mission Friends,  
GA, & RAs

## Walk with JESUS

on Palm Sunday, April 10th at 8:45 am, participate in activities, and explore Holy Week, the week of Jesus' life before his resurrection. Before exploring, pop by the children's kitchen for

Second Sunday Pancakes Apr 10th at 8:45 am

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16



VBS coming soon! June 13-16, 2022

Help us stock the snack room for VBS!

Drop off in the seminar room VBS week!



# Walk with Jesus



I am with you always.  
Matthew 28:20

Join us this  
**Palm Sunday, April 10**  
for Walk With Jesus: a Holy Week  
Experience for Families  
of Kindergarten - 6th Graders

Second Sunday Pancakes  
will start us off at 8:45 am.

Plan to **remain with your children**  
to participate together  
as a family.

Children will process into the **worship  
service** waving palm branches and our  
children's choir will sing.

**All children processing** into the  
worship service are asked to  
meet in the chapel at 9:45 am.

## Egg Hunt at VHBC

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH  
@ 10 AM

Meet us on the church lawn with  
your basket & invite your friends!



# VHBC YOUTH

## *Sundays*

9 am Bible Study in the Student Building  
5 pm YOSE April 3rd/10th  
No YOSE on April 17th due to Easter Sunday

## *Monday*

4 pm 428 on April 4th/11th

## *Wednesdays*

6 pm Wednesday Night Live April 6th  
No WNL on April 13th due to Holy Week



# Stay Connected

## FIND US ONLINE

at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)

## WATCH RECENT SERVICES

and other updates on [YouTube](#)

## STAY UPDATED ON

our [Facebook](#) page

## CONNECT WITH US

on [Instagram](#)

## LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

[In Tune with VHBC](#)

## GIVE ONLINE

on the ShelbyNext app or [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)

*Help us decorate the cross  
on Easter Sunday!*

**FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO BRING FLOWERS ON  
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH AND ADORN THE  
CROSS IN CELEBRATION!**

# Prayer List

## MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL

David Towns - STVHS, 322-S  
Rudy McMurray - Lakeshore Rehab

## UPCOMING PROCEDURES OR SURGERIES

Joe Perez - Procedure on 4/6  
Christine Pridgen - Surgery on 4/6  
Bonnie Perez - Back surgery on 4/13

## MEMBERS IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

Linda Anderson	Shirley Daviston	Barbara Price
Don Baker	Chriss Doss	Eddi Riley
John Bell	Janice Fleming	Charles Serio
Jenna Cassese	Melody Harden	LaRue Speights
Jason Cooper	Buddy McGohon	Linda Whitt

## HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Maxine Ammons	Sandy Gillis	Leon Nix
Juanita Blackburn	Bob & Mavis Hardy	Margaret Northrup
Libby Brown	Ruford Hodges	Gaynell Pinson
Ann Bush	Peggy Jones	Jerry & Lorelle Singleton
Carolyn Cain	Charlotte Kyser	Alicia Stigler
Esther Evans	Dot Lowe	Hazel Turner
Milton Fullman	Al Lowery	Bobbye Weaver
Natalie Garland	Samson Mathangani	Doris Wilson
Pat Gillespie	Kitty Newell	

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Elene Griffith, Sharon Hartzog, and family in the death of Elene's sister/Sharon's aunt, Linda Johnson, who passed away April 3, 2022.

**PLEASE SEND UPDATES TO THE CONTACTS BELOW**

☎ 205-979-5920    ✉ [martha@vhbc.com](mailto:martha@vhbc.com)

**DAILY UPDATES CAN BE FOUND AT [VHBC.COM/PRAYER-LIST](http://VHBC.COM/PRAYER-LIST)**

# Stay Updated

## **CELEBRATE BILL OWEN ON APRIL 10TH!**

Join us after worship for a reception in the foyer honoring Bill Owen who tirelessly worked with our transition team and Pastor Search Committee and lead us in worship this past year during our Senior Pastor search. We're so thankful to him!

A love offering is being collected. Individuals wishing to give can make contributions to the church office.



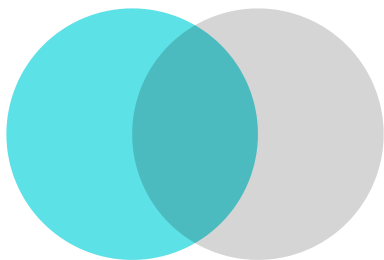
## **DEAR VHBC CHURCH FAMILY,**

Thank you for your kind recognition of my fifteenth year as organist. Your words of encouragement sustain me.

Your generous love offering was a lovely and humbling surprise. Thank you for being the voice and the body of Christ to me, not just for fifteen years, but for most of my life.



**LOVE, BETH MCGINNIS**



# **Lumen de Lumine**

**SHEPHERD MEMORIAL  
CONCERT**

**APRIL 24, 2022  
4 PM**

**VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST  
CHURCH**



VHBC  
Ministry Team

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS

MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR

BILL OWEN, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP