



The Notes is a weekly publication highlighting the ministries of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. If you have information you would like to highlight, please contact Emily Forsythe at eforsythe@vhumc.org. Deadline for information is Monday at noon.



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THE NOTES



Thanksgiving Holidays

The church offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday, November 25-26, for the Thanksgiving holidays. We hope you all have a great holiday. We will not publish The Notes next week. Look for our next edition December 2. We also will not have Wednesday Night Dinner next week.

Advent Devotions Are Here!

We are all hoping and praying for a return to a more normal holiday season. However, regardless of what Covid-19 might do, we still need a way to stay focused in the days leading up to Christmas. 2021 has been a year focused on the Word of God. Now as the year draws to a close, it seems only appropriate to finish our year of Scripture with an Advent Devotions booklet focused around God's Word. This year, each daily contribution for the Advent season has been written by a staff member. These dedicated people who serve God so faithfully will share their favorite scripture, an explanation of why it speaks into their hearts, and a brief prayer. The printed copies are available at various locations around the church. You can also access the Advent Devotions through the link at vhumc.org/advent. We pray these Advent devotions will give you hope, peace, love, and joy as we all watch and wait for the coming of the Christ Child into our world again.

Celebrating Baptisms

We celebrate Olivia Mary Bottcher who was baptized on November 14 in the 11:00 Traditional Service. The proud parents are Grace and Chase Bottcher and awesome big sister is Adele Bottcher. Olivia was baptized by her proud grandmother, Rev. Kelly Bottcher. Welcome to the family, Olivia!

We celebrate Barrett Edward Dibble who was baptized in the 9:45, Word and Table Service, on November 14. Brandy and Brent Dibble are the proud parents and Ben Dibble is the awesome big brother. Proud grandfather is Bill Dibble. Welcome to the family, Barrett!

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar Sunday, November 14, were arranged to the glory of God and were given in memory of Mitchell

Bernheim by his parents, Mary and Jerry.

5-Minute Missions This Sunday

Join us this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, during the coffee hour for our last 5-Minute Mission of 2021. This hands-on mission project is one for the entire family and all ages are welcome. We will be packing holiday stockings to be given to Vineyard Family Services. We look forward to seeing you!

Share A Bear This Sunday

All children age 2K-5th grade are invited to bring a new Teddy Bear for our fall mission project. Please bring a NEW Teddy Bear to the 8:30 or 11:00 am worship services on November 21. Our bears will be blessed during the Children's moment then given to the Children's Harbor Christmas party. Bears can be dropped off before at the main church office.

Advent Sermon Series: Shake It Up

Sunday, November 28, begins our Advent sermon series, Shake it Up. How do you make a snow globe work? You shake it up. That is why God in Jesus was born into the world: to shake it (and us) and return it to the way it was created to be. The theme of being shaken up by Jesus will be considered through the lives of three Biblical characters: Joseph, King Herod, and Mary. There are also study guides available to accompany the sermon series. They can be accessed at vhumc.org/advent.

White Christmas Offering

The first Sunday in Advent has always been a special offering in the United Methodist Church as it is designated to support and benefit the kids in Alabama. This year, on November 28, we invite you to help us carry out a legacy of providing warm homes, caring hearts, and a glimmer of hope for the future. Embrace Alabama Kids began over 130 years ago as an orphanage. Today, as a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home, we're one of the state's most comprehensive and vital resources serving babies, children, youth, teen mothers, college students, and families.

Your donation will provide them with homes for the holidays and every day by embracing them in the powerful and

Prayer Requests & Careline

Careline: 205-822-9336

Weekend or After-Hour Health Emergencies: 205-914-3121

VHUMC will not publish the names and/or concerns of persons known by VHUMC to be minors (18 years of age or younger) without the permission of said minor's legal guardian.

Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for the following persons:

- Cammie Atkins
- Parker Hill
- Gary Spearman
- Freda Bates
- Melissa Holt
- Julia Stowe
- Judy Bates
- Mary Anne Hooper
- Charlie Thwaite
- Judy Billmeier
- Dani Lorsen
- John Taylor
- Jean Burford
- Ed McTyre
- Jim Thompson
- Sunny Campbell
- Jean Morton
- Annette Veazey
- Julie Carroll
- Dan Peace
- John Watkins
- Brenda Correll
- Emily Phillips
- Mike Whittier
- Jamie DeMarco
- Marion Phillips
- Chuck Williams
- Harry Dinken
- Courtenay Renneker
- Ruth Willoughby
- Larry Edwards
- Sherrie Sherrer
- Dan Wise
- Lane Fields
- Sandra Sims
- Steve Yates
- Mary Ann Goodson
- Jennifer Skipper
- Frances Hardwick
- Leigh Smith

Global Prayer Request

- All of the Health Industry Workers
- All of our First Responders
- All who are struggling in these challenging times

We also continue to offer prayers of healing and comfort for all of the families impacted with the coronavirus.

In an effort to keep the prayer request list current, names will be listed for two weeks unless we are otherwise notified. Thank you. Please let us know of your immediate family members serving in the military. Contact VHUMC (769.0109) with prayer request information.

Our Resources

	Actual	Targeted
Donations last week	\$54,693	-\$20,774
July 2021 - Oct., 2021		
Donations	\$1,064,016	+\$37,718
Other Income	\$41,063	-\$7,843
Total Income	\$1,105,079	+\$29,875

(+) Better or (-) worse for the church than our target
*Includes COA, Summer Days, VDS, and Vestavia Dance



unconditional love of God. Please consider donating by placing your donation in one of the White Christmas envelopes or by visiting vhumc.org/give.

Advent Offering Benefits VHUMC Car Ministry

Sunday, November 28, our Advent offering begins benefitting the VHUMC Car Ministry. This ministry was started with a need being met by helping a young man in the rain trying to get to his job. Over a decade later, this ministry is still going strong and continues to transform lives by the gift of transportation. If you can, please consider giving to our Advent offering by either a financial donation or a car donation. You can be a part of that change and transformation, so please consider giving to the Advent offering this Christmas season. You can donate by clicking the link or by placing a check in the Advent envelope and in the memo line put Advent offering.

Christmas Flower Memorials and Honorariums

In celebration of Christmas, the Flower and Altar Guilds will be adorning the worship services with poinsettias and fresh cut greens. You can participate by donating flowers in memory or honor of a loved one for \$20. There will be a limited number of poinsettias available to be picked up after the last Christmas Eve service.

If you wish to make a memorial or honorarium tribute, you must contact Margaret Flowers (769-0112 / mflowers@vhumc.org) by Monday, December 15. Order forms will also be available in binders on the desk counter in the church office.

Hilltoppers Meeting Date Change

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14, at 10:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Quint Harris and Karen Krekelberg with lead a program of joyous Christmas music. For information or to make a lunch reservation (\$6) call Margaret Flowers at 769-0112 or mflowers@vhumc.org no later than 11:00 am on Friday, December 10. Please note the price and, if possible, have correct change or an extra dollar bill.

Vestavia Hilltoppers is a VHUMC sponsored organization for persons of retirement age, which meets each month for lunch and a program. They also sponsor trips and other activities that are publicized at meetings. Guests and new members are welcome.

Lighthouse Hours Thanksgiving Week

The Lighthouse will have special hours during the week of Thanksgiving. Monday, November 22 and Tuesday, November 23, the Lighthouse will be open from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Wednesday, November 24, the Lighthouse will be open from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. Thursday, November 25 through Sunday, November 28 the Lighthouse will be CLOSED. We wish you and your family and very Happy Thanksgiving!

Family Advent Workshop

Join us at Family Advent Workshop to make your very own snow globe. We will learn that Jesus came into this world to "Shake it Up!" It will be a fun night to kick off our celebration of the coming of Christ together with your family.

We look forward to seeing your family on Wednesday, December 1, at 6:00 pm, in Tyson Hall. Please register once for each child in your family that would like to

make a snow globe. Visit vhumc.org/advent to register.

Christmas Movie Night

Wednesday, December 8, VHUMC Family Ministries invites all ages for a night of Christmas fun! Grab your dinner from the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:00 pm. Then join us in Tyson Hall for a showing of Disney's "A Christmas Carol." Pajamas or comfy clothes are strongly encouraged...for ALL ages. There will be tables and chairs for eating but all are encouraged to bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs or whatever else will make you comfy while watching the movie. The movie will begin about 5:15 to give time to get dinner. We will be serving hot chocolate during the movie and the event will end at 7:00 pm. Please note that children need to be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Emily Boles (769-0130/ eboles@vhumc.org).

This Week in Elementary Sunday School

This Sunday, our 1st - 5th graders will head to Exodus 16:2-21, 17:1-7 with a look at how God's people responded while they were traveling through the wilderness. God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt, yet when they found themselves in uncomfortable situations, they complained that God didn't care about them. They even said they wanted to return to Egypt! In spite of that, God continued to meet their needs in the wilderness and provided what they needed the whole time. The main thing we want to learn is not to miss out on what you have now.

ASP Registration Now Open!

ASP registration is open! This is such an amazing opportunity for students to share the love of Christ through serving others. Don't miss out on this life-changing week. Register today at vhumc.org/students/missions! For more info, contact Jeremiah Stone (769-0131/ jstone@vhumc.org) or Kenzie Butler (769-0135/ kbutler@vhumc.org).

8th - 9th Grade: June 26 - July 2, 2022

10th - 12th Grade: July 17 - July 23, 2022

Total ASP cost is \$500. The payment deadlines will be:
December 7, 2021 - \$50 Non-Refundable Deposit Due
January 25, 2022 - \$200 Due

March 28, 2022 - \$250 Due (Final Payment)

Day School Employment Opportunities

Vestavia Day School is seeking qualified teachers - especially for our After School Program. Applicants must be high school graduates and 18 years or older. Full-time openings are from 9:00-6:00 pm. Part-time openings are from 2:00-6:00 pm. Each type comes with a bonus after completing 60 days. It is a fun, exciting environment for anyone who loves children. We need the congregation's help in filling these important roles. All interested parties should contact Jennifer Miller (jmiller@vhumc.org / 769-0129) for more information.

Giving to VHUMC from an IRA

As you plan your year-end giving, several members are now giving to the church from their required minimum distribution on an Individual Retirement Account. If you are 72 or older and would like to explore this option, we have a web page with information and instructions for giving to the church and reducing your taxable income.

This Week in Our Congregation

HOSPITALS, REHAB & EXTENDED CARE

Betty Thompson

SYMPATHY

CONGRATULATIONS

To Suzanne & Patrick Echols in the birth of their daughter, Lizza Francis Echols, on November 7th. Patti & Keith Echols are the paternal grandparents.

Ongoing Outreach

Food Pantry

Thanks to the Vestavia Day School for collecting a cart full of food every day last week for the pantry. Their food drive continues this week. Thanks also to Vestavia WEST school for their largest food drive ever. It took us two days to get it all shelved. Awesome group of students! Thank you so much.

Oak Mountain Mission

Oak Mountain Missions is still in need of slightly used coats and jackets from children's size 2 through adult size 5X. There are 3 bins around the church for items. Other winter clothing is also needed. Thank you.

Worship

8:30 am Traditional Service
"Christ the King"
John 18:33-37
Rev. Dr. William Brunson

9:45 am Word & Table Service
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
The 3 Most Important Words!
Rev. Butch Williams

11:00 am Traditional Service
"Not From Here!"
John 18:33-37
Rev. Butch Williams

11:00 am Contemporary Service
"And He Shall Reign Forever & Ever"
Philippians 2:1-11
Revelation 11:15
Rev. Dr. Kipp McClurg