

SHAKE IT UP



A VESTAVIA METHODIST SERMON SERIES

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



Advent Sermon Series: Shake It Up

Last Sunday began 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 by visiting vhumc.org/advent.

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!

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our church family.

- Anna & Bryan Goldman, who attend 11:00 Contemporary Worship in Tyson. Their children are Mary Hayden (8) and Wells (1).
- Sherry Crowder, who attends 11:00 Traditional Worship. Please look for them and give them a warm VHUMC welcome.

Advent Offering for the Car Ministry

This Sunday, 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 visiting vhumc.org/advent, by placing a check in the Advent envelope, or put Advent Offering on the memo line of your check.

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.

Christmas Movie Night

VHUMC Family Ministries invites all ages for a night of Christmas fun on Wednesday, December 8! 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 you 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).

Sounds of the Season

Come as you are to our annual Sounds of the Season on Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 pm, in Tyson Hall! This is a wonderful time of Christmas singing as we celebrate this joyous time of year! Join music leaders from every corner of VHUMC.

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
- Jennifer Skipper
- Judy Bates
- Melissa Holt
- Leigh Smith
- Judy Billmeier
- Mary Anne Hooper
- Susan Sparkman
- Jean Burford
- Ron Jones
- Gary Spearman
- Sunny Campbell
- Dani Lorsen
- Julia Stowe
- Julie Carroll
- Patrick McAlister
- Charlie Thwaite
- Brenda Cash
- Ed McTyre
- John Taylor
- Anne Cates
- Jean Morton
- Betty Thompson
- Brian Cooke
- Dan Peace
- Jim Thompson
- Brenda Correll
- Emily Phillips
- Annette Veazey
- Jamie DeMarco
- Marion Phillips
- John Watkins
- Larry Edwards
- Norman Putman
- Mike Whittier
- Lane Fields
- Courtenay Renneker
- Chuck Williams
- Mary Ann Goodson
- Mary Alice Saxon
- Dan Wise
- Frances Hardwick
- Sherrie Sherrer
- Steve Yates
- Blake Harwell
- Sandra Sims

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 2 weeks	\$155,070	+\$4,135
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



Service of Healing and Light

The holly-jolly Christmas atmosphere can be difficult if we are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one or a significant life-changing event. We need the space to acknowledge our grief and hold it up to the light of the Christmas message: God is with us. Come be a part of this very special service on Tuesday, December 21, at 6:00 pm, in the Sanctuary.

Upcoming Worship Services

Please plan to join us on Christmas Eve, December 24. We will have traditional services at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 pm. Childcare will be available at 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00 pm.

On Sunday, December 26 and January 2, we will have only one worship service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. There will not be any Sunday School classes but childcare will be available for birth-5k.

Christmas Day Dinner

It's almost time for Christmas Day Dinner at the church! Members and guests are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun, and fellowship. Turkey, ham, dressing, rolls, and beverages will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish to share (vegetables, casserole, salad, dessert, etc./one side per family). We'll start the fun at 11:30 am and lunch will be served at noon. Contact Margaret Flowers for reservations (769-0112 / mflowers@vhumc.org).

Early Sunday Coffee & Biscuits

If you worship at our 8:30 am Sunday service, please join us early in the Parlor for cheese biscuits, pastries, and coffee. We love to gather and fellowship before the service, but you can also just grab something before you head into the sanctuary. Billie Kelly and Memory & Harold Hagler have lovingly provided this ministry for years and are ready to resume. Please join us this Sunday!

Seeking an Accountant

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our wonderful Director of Finance, Natalie Giesen. Natalie has served the church well for nearly six years in this role, however, she got an "offer she could not refuse" from her former accounting firm, Tidwell Group. She will be with us through the end of December and will help with our transition in January. We will miss her in this important role, but she will still be around as a faithful church member.

We have started a search for a new Accountant. If you know anyone who would be qualified for this full-time position, please contact Gary Wyatt (gwyatt@vhumc.org / 769-0143).

Magical Marketplace

Thank you to everyone who participated in Magical Marketplace this year. It was such a fun day with our wonderful vendors and lots of great Christmas shopping. One of the highlights of the event is seeing the students from Unless U, and this year was no exception. Thanks also to the ladies of Genesis class for providing the delicious lunches again. Planning is underway for next year's event. We are in the process of recruiting a Chair and Co-Chair to serve on the Magical Marketplace committee. If you are interested in leading this team, please contact Rachael Hayes at rhayes@vhumc.org. Also, mark your calendar and save the date for next year's event which will be on Friday, November 18. Thank you again for making this event a success for Unless U.

Angel Tree Items Due

Thank you to everyone who picked up an Angel and participated in the Angel Tree program. All of our Angels were taken! Your generosity will make a young child's Christmas special. Please return all your items to the main church office by Sunday, December 5.

Register for New Small Groups!

God created us to live in community, so come join us! Starting on January 12, we will be offering small groups that you want to join. Small groups is a great way to find encouragement, friendship, and spiritual growth. We will be offering The Marriage Course, Developing a Servant's heart, Seamless, Storytellers, Chosen 2 and more. Please register at vhumc.org/smallgroups. This is your year to GROW!

December Hilltopper Meeting

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.

ASP Registration Closing Soon!

ASP registration ends Tuesday, December 7! 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! 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)

Raise the Roof

Church of the Reconciler needs a new roof! For years they have patched leaks to save money, but short-term solutions are no longer adequate. The anticipated cost of the new roof is \$200,000.

Over the past two years, they have updated their ministry and building in many ways to overcome the changing barriers that keep people in homelessness and poverty. They are almost through with a sanctuary remodel, and they have experienced a year and a half of life-changing ministry with our sister nonprofit Community on the Rise. There is so much new life here that must be protected with a new roof.

With careful budgeting, the church is able to fund half the cost of our roof, and we are looking to our community of support to help with the remaining \$100,000. If you would like to help Raise the Roof at Church of the Reconciler, please visit their website for ways to give: <http://www.churchofthereconciler.com/give>.

Congregational Concerns

HOSPITALS, REHAB & EXTENDED CARE

Jack Traffanstedt

SYMPATHY

To Carla, Mike, Joseph, Caroline & Sarah Frances Gilroy in the death of Mike's father, Jerome Edward (Jerry) Gilroy of Vestavia Hills, on November 19th.

To Claudia, Irvine and to Ellen Porter in the death of Claudia and Irvine's son, Sam Porter of Austin, TX, on November 22nd.

To Frank Bates in the death of his wife, Freda Bates, on November 27th.

To Kim, Tom, Thomas, and Virginia Cochran in the death of Kim's father, Dr. Homer Holt of Louisville, KY, on December 2nd.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jennifer & Brandon Whittemore in the birth of their son, Weston Patrick Whittemore, on November 17th.

To Lara Waits in the birth of her granddaughter, Finley Grace Williamson, on November 19th. Allison and Chase Williamson are the proud parents.

To Monicka Roden and Jacob Brown, who were married in our Sanctuary on Saturday, November 20th.

To Amanda & Matt Petro in the birth of their son, Collier Evans Petro, on November 22nd. Parker and Mary Wallace are the proud big brother and sister.

Ongoing Outreach

Food Pantry

Thanks so much to the 9th grade campus and to VHHS for the recent food drive of 10,000 items! We now have a generous supply of cans and ramen noodles. Breakfast items are still always needed, as well as peanut butter and jelly. We served 300 families each 3 bags of food, turkeys, and produce for Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your support of this great ministry.

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.