



**A Wonderful Celebration of 70 Years**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the church! Sunday, we had a wonderful morning worshipping outside, with 700 of our church family. Later that evening, we joined together again to enjoy a beautiful night of worship with an engaging conversation led by Brodie Croyle.

Wednesday night we celebrated a final time, with a birthday celebration fit for our beloved 70-year-old church, complete with a cake replica of our iconic church tower. Big thanks to our church family for coming out to celebrate this momentous occasion!

We celebrate because God has built, is building, and will continue to build his kingdom through this church. Our purpose is to be the church where everyone can experience their Christ-centered life of purpose. Thanks be to God for giving us 70 years of ministry!

**Clergy Sharing About Our Future**

As many of you are aware, we the clergy of VHUMC felt it was best not to speak out about our opinions regarding the discernment process until after the Discernment Team completed their work. We did not engage in the process, despite requests from members on both sides of this issue, so that the church members could collect information and form their own opinions.

Now that the Church Council has recommended that VHUMC exit the UMC to become an Independent Methodist Church, we had planned for our preaching pastors to share their thoughts this coming Sunday morning. The rationale was due to the fact that regular Sunday service times have the potential to connect with most members of our congregation, particularly our younger families who are often pulled in many directions.

However, concern over us sharing our thoughts or opinions in worship services was shared with the Bishop and District Superintendent by church members and a non-church member, all of whom wish for the church to remain in the UMC. In response to their concerns, we have been asked to not share in worship services. As clergy in the UMC we are obliged to honor the request of our Bishop and District Superintendent.

We will be sharing our stories, our thoughts, and the pros and the cons related to this upcoming decision at the following non-worship events:

Sunday, October 23 – In the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm – Bill Brunson, Kipp McClurg, Butch Williams, John Sweeney, and lay leaders will share pros and cons about the future of our church.

Sunday, November 6 – In the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm – This is intended to be a repeat for those who missed the October 19th event. Thrive staff, Kelly Bottcher, Sherry Harris, and lay leaders will share about the pros and cons of our future with PARENTS OF STUDENTS. These will be led by Jeremiah Stone and are intended for the parents of youth to prepare them to talk with their student(s) about the upcoming vote.

Wednesday, November 9 – In the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm – Bill Brunson, Kipp McClurg, Butch Williams, Sherry Harris, and lay leaders will share pros and cons about the future of our church. This will be very similar to the October 23rd event.

If you have comments, questions, or would like one of the clergy or lay leaders to speak with your small group about our future, contact ourfuture@vhumc.org.

**A Very Important Church Vote**

In the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, there are very few items that merit a

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](mailto:eforsythe@vhumc.org). Deadline for information is Monday at noon.



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**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

Dedo Anthony	Sally Browne
Brenda Correll	Mary Anne Hooper
Joan Rasberry	Debbie Wiggins
Oren Babb	April Butler
Jean Cox	Sue Malone
Sandra Sims	Dan Wise
Ruth Bartow	Julie Carroll
Elizabeth Hamby	Jean Morton
Julia Stowe	Marvin Young
Lodema Bean	
Frances Hardwick	
Betty Thompson	
Judy Billmeier	
Mike Harper	
John Watkins	

## 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.*

## Resources

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Donations last week	\$49,299	-\$15,006
<b>July - Sept 2022</b>		
Donations	\$757,343	-\$4,648
Other Income	\$34,533	-\$473
Total Income	\$791,876	-\$5,121

(+) Better or (-) worse for the church than our budget  
Budgets for this period have not yet been set

church-wide vote, also called a "Church Conference." One action that requires a Church Conference is when a decision is being made whether or not to leave the United Methodist Church. We will be gathering to vote on this issue on Sunday night, November 13, at 6:30 pm. Our Discernment Team voted 10-2 to become an independent Methodist Church. Our Church Council voted 16-4 to support that decision. Now, the members of the church have the opportunity to vote on the future of our church.

This meeting has been scheduled by and will be conducted by our District Superintendent of the North Alabama UMC Conference. According to their rules, you are eligible to cast a vote if you are listed on our roles as a "Member" or an "Inactive Member." Also, you must be present that night to vote. Look for more information in the weeks ahead on nursery care. If anyone needs a ride that evening, please contact Margaret Flowers (769-0112 / mflowers@vhumc.org).

## Thank You Discernment Team

For each of the 12 members of our Discernment Team, the past six months have required a tremendous amount of time, reading, research, reporting, listening, collaboration, and prayer. We want to thank you for wrestling with so many important and weighty issues and making a recommendation to our Church Council. You have served the church well.

If you see any of the team members, please thank them for their service to the church: Becky Crum, Coker Barton, Stephen Christie, Harry Dinken, Anna Gualano, Jim Harper, William Hocutt, Kristen Honeycutt, Brad Kimbrough, Kym Prewitt, Roger Steur, and Mary Beth Templin.

With the Church Council decision to move to a Church Conference vote on the issue becoming an independent Methodist church, the work of the Discernment Team is complete.

## Bible Brew

Bible Brew is for men only and will be a guided discussion about theological principles and how they apply to current world events, questions concerning your faith, and a time to have FUN and enjoy each other's company.

We will meet at Mugshots, in Vestavia Hills, on October 30, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Burgers, the Bible, and Brew...mates, does it get any better than this! Mark your calendars and invite a friend!

## Mae Mae's Hugs

VHUMC has partnered with the family and friends of Maegan Moore for eight years to provide new coats in her memory. We are thankful that over 4,000 coats have been distributed to children and adults across Alabama receiving a warm hug from Mae Mae and VHUMC! We will be accepting NEW COATS ONLY during the month of October and November. Many of these coats will be Christmas gifts for children in group and foster homes across the state. The new coats can be dropped off at the church main office. Monetary donations are needed to purchase new coats. Donations can be made online at the link or in the offering plate by placing "Mae Mae's Hugs" on the memo line. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

## 2023 VHUMC Alaska Cruise Information Meeting

VHUMC will be going to Alaska June 10 - 23, 2023. The trip is fourteen days with a three day cruise included. We will have an information meeting on Sunday, November 6 at 5:00 pm in room 316. Space is very limited. If you have any questions please contact Jim Frazier (769-0126/ jfrazier@vhumc.org).

## Boomer & Beyond Songs around the Campfire

If you are 55 and better, you are invited to join us on Friday, October 28, at 6:00 pm on the Lighthouse Patio. We will have hot dogs, hot cider, and s'mores. This will be a fun time to visit and sing some of your favorite songs around the campfire. This is a FREE event so invite your friends. Please RSVP no later than October 26 to Jim Frazier (769-0126/ jfrazier@vhumc.org).

## Grief Survivors Preparing for the Holidays Event

The holiday season can be a very challenging time for all of us. We struggle to find the "new normal," and holiday dynamics with families and friends can be overwhelming at times. VHUMC is hosting a special evening devoted specifically to helping those who have lost loved ones with those challenges on Thursday, November 3. "Preparing for the Holidays" will start at 6:00 pm in Room 202, with the evening wrapping up around 7:30 pm. We'll receive a helpful message from Grief Counselor Cori C. Ray, M.A., LPC (Trinity Counseling), and members of our Grief Support Ministry Team (all of whom are grief survivors of spouses, children, parents, siblings, and other loved ones) will be there to greet you and share in this evening with you.

We'll also provide you with a helpful handout/discussion containing useful suggestions on how to best navigate your grief during the holidays. We'll then spend some time in small groups with others who have suffered losses similar to yours. And finally, we will conclude the evening with a message from our own Senior Pastor, and fellow grief survivor, Rev. Dr. Bill Brunson. For more information, please contact Butch Williams (769-0102 / bwilliams@vhumc.org). We greatly look forward to sharing this time with you. There is no cost for this event, but please register by clicking the link.

## Ongoing Outreach

### FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry needs coffee, creamer, peanut butter, and canned chicken. Two of the Vestavia schools are working on food drives for us right now. Thank you all for continuing your support of this wonderful ministry.

### OAK MOUNTAIN MISSION

Oak Mountain Missions is beginning to collect winter school clothing and still needs tennis shoes in all sizes. Blankets and coats are needed as well.

## Congregational Care

### HOSPITALS, REHAB & EXTENDED CARE

Patsy Orso

### SYMPATHY

To Jeri, Anthony, and Ford Finchum in the death of Anthony's mother, Sarah Finchum of Birmingham, on September 26th.

To the family of Mark Ridings, former VHUMC Director of Music and resident of Atlanta, on September 30th.

To Marsha Yarbrough in the death of her mother, Pat Miller of Ft. Myers, FL, on September 30th.

To Bethany, Justin, Jameson & Ann Ridley Ware in the death of Bethany's grandmother, Barbara Baxter Castleberry of Vestavia Hills, on October 2nd.

To the family and friends of Anita Powell in her death on October 4th.

To Jerry Jackson and family in the death of his wife, Carolyn Jackson, on October 8th.

To Mary A'lice, Wally, Carson & Reese Purdy in the death of Mary A'lice's mother, Laura Hawkins Powell of Vestavia Hills, on October 10th.

To Anne Jacobsen in the death of her husband, Guy Harrison, on October 13th.

To the family of Jay Wells in his death on October 15th.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Janet & Jarry Taylor in the birth of their twin grandsons, Aiden Moore & Miles Carlson Taylor, on September 27th. Claire & Jarred Taylor of Seattle are the proud parents.

To Alan Kaufman, Men's Golf Coach, in his induction into the UAB Department of Athletics Hall of Fame on October 7th.

To Lisa & Bailey Cates in the birth of their son, John Andrew Cates, on October 7th. Livi & Reid are the proud siblings! Anne & Happy Cates are the paternal grandparents, and Lisa & Jimm Medley are the maternal grandparents.