

VHBC

Connections

DIG DEEPER

Midweek Bible study
starts this week!

ADVENTURE TRANSFORMATION

A story of pilgrimages and
personal journeys

JULY 11, 2023

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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**INTERESTED IN A
VHBC T-SHIRT? WE
STILL HAVE MANY
AVAILABLE FOR SALE
IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE!**

\$10
Adults

\$5
Kids



4

GOING ON PILGRIMAGE

Join Pastor Eric as he begins a series of highlights on his recent journey to Israel and the West Bank.

6 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Our summer schedule is a little slower, but there's still something for everyone at VHBC!

7 VHBC YOUTH

The youth are all over the place this summer. See where you can find them next!

8 MEMBER NEWS

Get to know new members at VHBC!

9 STUDYING ISAIAH

Join Laura Tadlock on Sunday AND Wednesday as she explores the book of Isaiah!

10 SERVING AT VHBC

Take a look at the next two weeks of our faithful volunteers in different ministry areas!

11 CORRIE TEN BOOM

The Senior Adult Ministry Team wants to share a special opportunity with you!

PASTOR'S ARTICLE



There are many ways to travel to Israel and the West Bank these days. Some go for the adventure, filling their days with hiking to desert peaks, walking through 3,000 year old tunnels, and water skiing on the Sea of Galilee. Others go to explore history, digging in ancient soil to uncover ancient civilizations. Some go to engage in the politics of a small geographical place filled with millions of diverse people on land covered with ancient holy places representing diverse faiths.

I have found a profound way to visit Israel and the West Bank is to go on pilgrimage. N.T. Wright in his book *The Way of the Lord: Christian Pilgrimage Today* says, "A pilgrim is someone who goes on a journey in the hope of encountering God, or meeting God in a new way."

I did not grow up thinking of Christian pilgrimage. I discovered it later as I traveled to Israel for the first time with members of my church in Georgia.

The experience was powerful for me. I journeyed with others to encounter God in a place.

Christians have been going on pilgrimages for centuries. In his book *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer tells the stories of individuals traveling to Canterbury, England to visit the shrine of St. Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. In the movie, *The Way*, a father played by Martin Sheen travels to Spain to walk the ancient pilgrimage path called the *Camino de Santiago* after his son's death.

During our journey to Israel and the West Bank over the July 4th holiday weekend, I witnessed the power of pilgrimage in a person's life. Our group of 24 people from six states came together to support and encourage each other as we walked our individual journeys. Each person came for a different purpose wanting to visit unique locations. We discovered we could not reach our destinations without helping others reach theirs.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED

We needed one another.

By the time it came for us to return, we were tired, worn out, and full. More than information or experiences, we were full of the Spirit, transformed by the journey of being together.

Over the coming months, I will find time to share more about these places and about our journey. Let me encourage you to engage any of our fellow pilgrims to hear their stories. More than tourist adventures, you will hear stories of personal growth and strength.

I'm glad to be home again briefly. My family and I will travel to London at the end of July. I will be performing a wedding for a close family friend. I will return on the first of August as we get ready for a new church year. I cannot wait to get started. I'll see you on Sunday.

You are loved.

ERIC



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8:45 BIBLE STUDY

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.

10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

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.

2:00 SUMMER SMALLS FOR YOUTH

PM

- Our youth are invited to meet in the homes of our youth families on Sunday afternoons this summer. See more information on the Youth page!



WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING & REHEARSALS WILL RESUME
IN AUGUST.

SUMMER FUN



POOL TIME

The pool is open at the McFarlands' house on Sundays for youth from 4-6 pm!



Our 7th-9th graders had a wonderful trip to Destin, FL!

ACTIVITIES

Dinner & a Movie on 7/14, Splash Adventure on 7/19, & Movie Matinee on 7/25!



FELLOWSHIP

529

7/17, & 7/31

5-9 pm

Student Building

(bring \$ for dinner!)

Summer Smalls

Sundays in July

2-4 pm

7/16: Boys at the McBrayers'; Girls at the McFarlands'

7/23: Boys at the Coopers'; Girls at the McFarlands'



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Haley & Josh Crosby

Haley was raised in Cedartown, GA. She attended Samford University for nursing school and currently works at Grandview Medical Center. Most of Haley's relatives live in the Birmingham area and several attend VHBC and are active members in the church.

Josh was a military brat. His family moved all over the place before settling in Enterprise, AL. He went to Enterprise High School and then moved to Birmingham in 2008 for college at UAB. He met Haley while working at Brookwood years ago. She subtly convinced him to ask her out on their first date, because he was oblivious and could not catch the first of many hints.

The rest is history and they've been married over five years now. Their daughter Isabelle was born in March of this year. Isabelle means "God is my oath." She was named using Haley's great grandmother's middle name. Isabelle is also a derivative of Elizabeth, which is Haley's mother's name (Elizabeth David) and Josh's mother's middle name (Mara Elizabeth Crosby). The name, Isabelle, was chosen as a way to honor both grandmothers. Isabelle has many family members who attend Vestavia Hills Baptist Church and we look forward to her family growing more at VHBC!

WELCOME

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY INTERESTED IN JOINING VHBC?

Pastor Eric would love to speak with you! Please call the church office at 205-979-5920 or email Jenn Tiehen jennifer@vhbc.com to schedule an appointment. We look forward to seeing you!

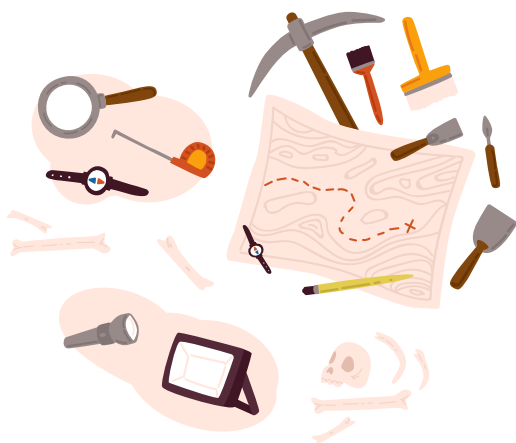
JULY SUNDAY STUDY



Three more Sundays in the Fellowship Hall!

Join Laura Tadlock as she continues to teach from the book of Isaiah. We are examining God's message to Judah at a time of internal spiritual decay and external threats. Though all seems lost and the people themselves are unwilling to listen, God spoke through Isaiah. As we examine the past, we are opening ourselves up to God's work in our lives today - listening for and recognizing the mysterious, powerful, and grace-filled presence of our God. If you haven't joined yet, make plans to be a part of this Sunday morning Bible study in July.

Dig Deeper



Beginning TOMORROW Wednesday, July 12 - August 2, we will take a deeper dive into the book of Isaiah at 10 am in the seminar room. We will build upon our Sunday morning lessons to better understand the prophetic book and its purpose and relevance today. Come be a part of the discussion as we gather for Summer adult Bible study.

VOLUNTEERS

AROUND THE CHURCH

July 16: Jennifer Cox, Sara McFarland, Samuel Nordlund, Rachel Farley, Jan Deagon, Jerri Pare'

July 23: Jan Dulin, Stacey Sapp, Becky Atkinson, Trisha Balias, Dianne Horn, Laura Griffio, LaRue Gillespie

worship care

July 16/23: Joe Perez, Howard Finch, Brandi & Larry Brownell, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lisa Speegle, Kathy Finch

welcome team

July 16: Elizabeth David & Norfleete Day

July 23: Jan Dulin & Brad Farley

deacons

July 16: Hal David, David Philpot, Peter LeBerte

July 23: Hal David, Dan McMurray, Norfleete Day

worship tech

Coming soon

Wednesdays at VHBC return on August 2nd!

8/2: Meals are back and we will hear **Summer Stories** of travel & mission engagement.

8/9: Quarterly Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

8/16: Summer Review - How did we see God at work this summer? Come hear testimonies from our children, youth, & adult ministries. This will be a great time to reflect on God's work among us and embrace the excitement on what is to come this fall!

vhbc connections is published biweekly by
VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
2600 Vestavia Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216



**Our Senior Adult
Ministry team
encourages everyone to
check out this limited
engagement
opportunity!**

**Showing in
theaters on
August 3rd & 5th!**

In the Netherlands, Corrie Ten Boom and her family risk everything to hide Jewish refugees by the hundreds and ultimately face the consequences when they are discovered.

World War II. Darkness has fallen over Europe, and the boots of the Third Reich echo through the streets. But on a quiet city corner in the Netherlands, some choose to resist. Corrie Ten Boom and her family risk everything to hide Jewish refugees by the hundreds, and they ultimately face the consequences when they are discovered.

The Hiding Place is their story—a story of faith, hope, love, and forgiveness in the face of un-thinkable evil. This powerful cinematic presentation was adapted for the stage by A. S. Peterson, directed for the stage by Matt Logan, and filmed for cinema audiences in Nashville, Tennessee.