

JULY 12, 2022

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 14

VHBC

Connections



**SEED CAMP
2022**

CONTENTS



**10 HONORING
MARTHA NEILL**

VHBC GIVING 2022

JULY BUDGET NEEDS	\$146,768.00
JULY BUDGET OFFERING	\$54,994.00
YTD BUDGET NEEDS	\$948,332.00
YTD BUDGET OFFERING	\$921,038.00
UKRAINE OFFERING	\$24,090.00

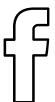
FIND VHBC ONLINE



**WATCH
RECENT
SERVICES**



CONNECT



**STAY
UPDATED**



**IN TUNE
WITH VHBC
PODCAST**



**GIVE ONLINE
SHELBYNEXT**



2600 VESTAVIA DR.
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216
205.979.5920
BRITTNI@VHBC.COM



WWW.VHBC.COM

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HAPPENINGS AROUND VHBC!

03 PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Dr. Eric Spivey shares his thoughts on the great work that VHBC is doing this summer.

04 ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

This month VHBC will be ordaining Tyler & Alexis Johnson AND installing Dr. Eric Spivey as Pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

05 SEED CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you for your continued support of this annual mission in Perry County! Read about this year's camp and see photo highlights!

07 VHBC YOUTH

Not sure what the youth have planned for this month? Check it out here!

08 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Join us on Sundays in July for adult Bible study and worship and come back in August for more activities on Wednesdays!

09 NEWS & EVENTS

Summer is full at VHBC! Find out what's going on at the church!

10 SPECIAL NEWS

Let's celebrate Martha Neill's 20 years with VHBC & learn more about new members, The Van Kirks!

11 CONNECTED IN PRAYER

Stay updated with the prayer needs of our membership and missionary partners.

LEARNINGS

By Dr. Eric Spivey

SINCE SUMMER BEGAN, I HAVE ENJOYED EXPERIENCING THE WONDERFUL SUMMER MINISTRIES OF VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST FOR THE FIRST TIME.

After two years of the pandemic, our ministries have been full of energy, excitement, and the Spirit of God. At the midpoint of the summer, let me share with you a few of the learnings I've made about our great church.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church loves children. Our 2022 VBS was a wonderful experience! The entire church from our older members to our rising 7th graders worked hard, loved big, and produced a wonderful ministry to our children and community. It was one of the most beautiful expressions of intergenerational children's ministry I've ever witnessed.

Our Vestavia Hills Baptist Church student ministry rocks! Throughout the summer – from the Chicago mission trip to VBS to Passport – the energy, fellowship, service, kindness, deepness, and love of our teenagers, leaders, and ministers has shined brightly. Our students enjoy a deep bond which strengthens their ability to be transformed by the Spirit of God.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church worships deeply. While many of us have been travelling over the summer our worship ministry has not skipped a beat. Beautiful music, anthems, and challenging messages have continued to greet each of us as we come to worship in person or online as we travel.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church does transformational mission work. As Marcia and I joined our Seed Camp in Perry County, we heard 20 years of stories of how our church has invested in the people and communities of Marion and Uniontown. These stories reveal a church whose sense of God's mission runs deep, who take time to know their mission field, and who recognize the assets of God's work in the community.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church is a loving, Christ centered faith community who care for one another, enjoy being with each other, and invite others to come alongside. I've witnessed our Koinonia (fellowship) on Wednesday nights, at the Baron's game, on Sundays, in small groups, in worship, and in the joy of VBS.

These learnings reveal a church actively following the Spirit of God as we do the work of church together. I look forward to seeing how God uses these strengths and gifts to expand our mission and ministry in the coming years.

I'm grateful to be your pastor. I'll see you on Sunday.

Eric

TYLER & ALEXIS JOHNSON ORDINATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022
2:00 PM

All VHBC members and friends are invited to participate in the Ordination to the Gospel Ministry Service of Tyler and Alexis Johnson. In the Baptist Church, individuals are ordained by the local church.



Several months ago, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church voted to convene two Ordination Councils. Over these months, Tyler and Alexis have written essays outlining their theology and philosophy of Gospel ministry. Our ordination councils have reviewed these documents, interviewed Tyler and Alexis separately and received ministry references. On July 3rd the church received the recommendation for ordination from both councils and voted to ordain both Tyler and Alexis.

The ordination process has affirmed what we have already witnessed over the last three years the Johnsons have been part of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. The Lord has both gifted and called Tyler and Alexis as individuals and as a family as ministers of the Gospel.

On July 24th, we will get the opportunity lay hands on them as we set them apart as ministers of the Gospel. Make the extra effort to come participate in this important event in the life of Johnson family and Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022
10:00 AM



On Sunday, July 31st, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will officially install Dr. Eric Spivey as our 5th Senior Pastor. This service will be a festive ceremony recognize the calling of Dr. Spivey and acknowledging his responsibilities and duties as Senior Pastor, celebrating the end of our interim season, and welcoming the new chapter in our congregation's life.

The service will include representatives from our Baptist network, mentors from Dr. Spivey's ministry, and a special song by our children's choir. Revs. Bill and Ginny (Bridges) Ireland from Norris, Tennessee will provide the challenge for the future.



We had a great week at Seed Camp in Perry County! 22 volunteers from VHBC worked alongside members of Baptist Church of the Covenant and Sowing Seeds of Hope to provide two STEAM enrichment camps at neighboring elementary schools in Uniontown and Marion, Alabama. As lunch maker, snack baggers, art makers, "Fun with Food" creators, engineering inventors, quiet listeners, and hug givers, we ministered to the students and teachers doing good work in Perry County!



A big thank you to all who supported your team through presence and prayer! **Are you ready to go next summer? Is God leading you to go and serve? There is a place for you at Seed Camp 2023!**

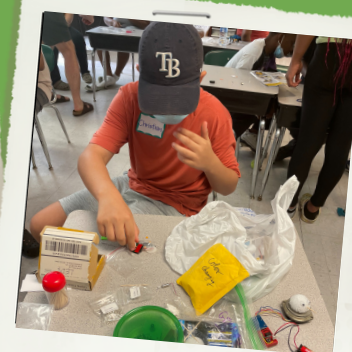


Continue on the next page to see more photos from Seed Camp 2022 and read about how some of our youth feel about serving every year.



"My first time at **Seed Camp** was in the 7th grade. I was assigned to be a helper in music for the week. I was nervous because music is not a strong suit of mine, and I've never considered myself to be the best with kids. However, I quickly found out that it did not matter. The kids did not judge you on your ability to sing or dance; instead, they automatically accepted you because of your presence. Every morning when the kids would come to music, I was always greeted with a smile and hug. The kids always called me Miss Emily, which I found weird as a 7th grader, I would say their name the same way. Once the day was over and the kids would load up on the bus, everyone would return to the dorm's common room. Even though we'd be tired and hot from a day at camp, everyone would sit around and play card games or even just talk. Some of my favorite memories are from sitting and talking to people I would not normally think to talk to. **Seed Camp** to me is special because of the kids and people who make it such a fun environment."

Emily Cooper,
age 16



"I have been going to **Seed Camp** for a few years. It is always a highlight of my summer. I enjoy being around the kids there and helping to make a camp for them."

Nash Dorion,
age 13



VHBC YOUTH Summer 2022

SUMMER SMALLS IN JULY

7/10 at 2 pm
7/17 at 2 pm
7/31 at 2 pm
8/7 at 2 pm

VHBC
Girls at McFarlands, Guys at Coopers
Girls at McFarlands, Guys at McBrayers
VHBC



JULY EVENTS

7/11 5²⁹
7/13 Movie Day
7/17 Summer Smalls
7/18 Beach Day
7/25 5²⁹
7/31 Summer Smalls



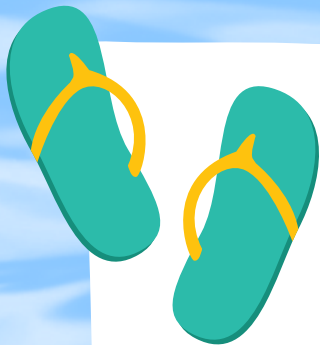
LET'S GO WATCH A MOVIE!

Wednesday, July 13
AMC Vestavia

minions

THE RISE OF GRU

Bring money for tickets (\$13) and snacks! We'll meet in the lobby at 3:15 pm. See you at the movies!

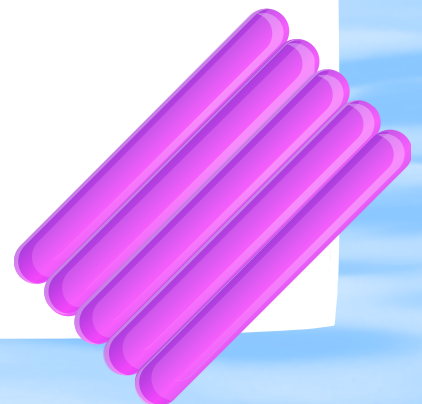


BEACH DAY [AT] OAK MTN. ST. PARK

Monday, July 18
10 am - 3 pm

\$5 entry per person
Bring extra money for lunch!

Sunscreen ▪ Bathing Suit ▪ Towel ▪ Water Bottle



WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT VHBC



SUNDAYS

8:45 AM SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

- 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 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

- 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.

5:00 PM YOUTH ON SUNDAY EVENING

- All youth meet in the Student Building to play games, listen to a devotion, and prepare for the upcoming week.

4:45 PM FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at vhbc.com to reserve your meal!
- Adults/Youth \$6 per person
- Kids (K-6th) \$4 per person
- Preschoolers & College Students eat free!

4:45 PM HANDBELLS

5:30 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

6:00 PM YOUTH ACTIVITIES

6:00 PM ADULT SESSIONS

6:15 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

7:00 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR



NEWS & EVENTS

AROUND THE CHURCH



HELP WANTED

for a **GREETER** each Sunday morning from 9:40-10:00 am at the Children's reception desk. Please contact Nancy to volunteer!



NAME TAG SUNDAYS

Wear a name tag each Sunday morning through July & August!



THANK YOU!

We appreciate the youth who were able to volunteer in the student gym closet on Monday, 7/11 to clean and organize the gym equipment!



PASSPORT KIDS

Our campers and chaperones leave this week and are heading to the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA for Passport Kids Camp!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE JUNE 26-JULY 9, 2023

Eric & Marcia Spivey invite you to join them and friends from Florida on a Holy Land Pilgrimage to Israel next summer. After a 2-year pandemic delay, the opportunity for us to journey to the Holy Land has arrived. We hope you will join us next summer.

Informational Meeting:
THIS Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 11:15 am
Fellowship Hall

For more information about the trip, visit the link to the brochure [HERE](#). If you are interested, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Eric Spivey (etspivey@gmail.com).

JULY ADULT BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:45 AM

Our adult Bible study classes are invited to meet together in the fellowship hall and explore the sons of Jacob. These sessions will be taught by Laura Tadlock. Over the next five weeks, we'll look at some stories that are familiar but also some more obscure lessons about the children of Jacob. Come and join together **Sundays in July**, as we study Jacob's family and the important lessons we might glean from their lives.

JULY 3

Reuben's Sin
Genesis 35:22a; 49:1-4;
1 Chronicles 5:1

JULY 10

Simeon & Levi's Vengeance
Genesis 34:1-5,8,13-17,
25-27,30-31

JULY 17

The Brothers' Jealousy
Genesis 37:2b-4,17b-27

JULY 24

Judah's Repentance
Genesis 38:13-17,24-26; 49:8-12

JULY 31

Joseph's Providence
Genesis 45:1-15

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

July 17

Jerri Pare'

July 24

Dianne Horn

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 17

Babies & Ones: Donnetta Williams, Jennifer Carter
Twos-K: Gilda Coker, Emily White

July 24

Babies & Ones: Precious Thomas, Latesha Brown
Twos-K: Tye Hill, Donnetta Williams

WORSHIP CARE

July 17

Babies & Ones: Donnetta Williams, Brenda Ammons
Twos-K: Sara McFarland, Alexis Johnson

July 24

Babies & Ones: Precious Thomas, Latesha Brown
Twos-K: Tye Hill, Donnetta Williams

SPECIAL NEWS

After 20 years of faithful service at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Martha Neill is retiring. As the Administrative Assistant in the areas of Pastoral and Music Ministries, Martha recognizes her work as a vital part of the ministry of the church. Her genuine care and concern for the membership of VHBC is seen in the way she knows the person on the phone, speaks to the visitor in the office, or greets the children at the VBS registration table.



Over the years, Martha's steady hand has touched all facets of our beloved community such as Prayer Breakfast, Deacon Ministry, Senior Adult Ministry, the weekly Order of Worship, weddings, funerals, celebrations...etc.

There be another person in her role, but there will not be another Martha. She is an irreplaceable friend to us all. We will celebrate Martha in worship on **Sunday, August 7th**. A love offering will be accepted through the church financial office.



Get to know our new members, Patsy & George Van Kirk.

Patsy was born and raised in Athens, Alabama. She lived there through her college days at UA in Huntsville and into professional life as a computer programmer at AMOCO Chemicals in Decatur. George was a military kid who grew up all over the world. After his dad retired, the Van Kirks landed in Athens on the advice of Army friends, although they had no family ties to anyone in the south. George enlisted in the Navy right after high school, was stationed on the West Coast, and cruised the Pacific Ocean during his seven-year hitch. He returned to Athens, enrolled at UAH, met Patsy at First Baptist Church, and they married in 1980. George worked as an engineer in the Huntsville aerospace industry and retired from the Army Missile Lab in 2016.

A very close family, the Van Kirks are parents to 3 children, Melissa, George Harlan, and Rachel. Melissa met her husband, Adam, at the University of Alabama. They have 2 children, Calvin (9) and Ellie (7). Melissa lives in Homewood and works as a speech pathologist at United Ability. Adam is an engineer at Honda. Like his dad, George Harlan enlisted in the Navy right after high school, and graduated years later from Alabama in civil engineering. He is engaged to marry Jessica (a civil engineer) on July 9 in upstate New York. Rachel is their youngest child. She and her husband Wes have 2 children, Ben (2) and Maria (2 weeks). Also, a graduate of Alabama in electrical engineering, Rachel is now a Presbyterian minister and Wes is...you guessed it, is an (Auburn) engineer! Even though Rachel just had a baby, she will be performing the wedding ceremony for George Harlan and Jessica.

When the Van Kirks retired, they moved to the Birmingham area to be closer to grandchildren. And although they are new members, they are not new to VHBC having visited many times over the years with their daughter, Melissa (Pouncey). George sings in the choir and Patsy enjoys participating in Women's Bible Study. They are members of the Fellowship Sunday School Class. They also regularly attend on Wednesday nights. They appreciate the size of our fellowship, the family atmosphere, and of course, seeing the grandkids twice a week. When they are not at church, they are enjoying the home they built in the Ballantrae community where they can be found regularly socializing with their neighbors. Patsy follows tennis closely and George is a woodworker and cyclist. They both enjoy patronizing the Birmingham theater houses, watching Alabama football, reading, and traveling. George said that retirement agrees with them. "We are very happy to be at VHBC," Patsy said. **Well, Patsy and George, we are happy you're here too!**

CONNECTED IN PRAYER

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

John Bell	Ann Holt
Jason Cooper	LaRue Speights
Mona Fisher	Linda Whitt
LaWayne Fleming	

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD

Dianne & Shane McNary - Slovakia
 Awon Shanglai - India
 Marco & Omar Vallejo - Mexico
 Richard Owiti Kogola, Paul Mbogo,
 Benson Mwangangi, & Josphat Thiori - Kenya
 Chuck Tarter - Ireland
 Candy & Paul Huynh - Cambodia

PASSPORT CAMPERS THIS SUMMER

Children & Adults at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA July 17-20, 2022

Nancy Akins	Abigail Moran
Keller Brownell	Duncan Nix
Larry Brownell	Jasper Nix
Genevieve Gammell	Aubrey Payton
Lucy Hankins	Calvin Pouncey
Ryan Hankins	Melissa Pouncey
Collier Hughey	Benjamin Riley
Audrey McFarland	Matthew Riley

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

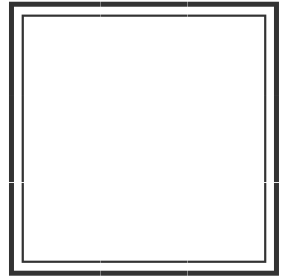
Mike Wilburn & family in the death of his brother, Alan Frank Wilburn on July 3rd. The service will be held on Thursday, July 14th at 11 am at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

Frances Stevenson & family in the death of her brother, Hudson Adams on July 7th in Columbus, MS.

CONGRATULATIONS

Greg & Wanda Pruitt on the birth of a granddaughter, Cicily Rin McGarity on July 3rd. Proud parents are Mary & Will McGarity.

VHBC CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY
BY VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
2600 VESTAVIA DRIVE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35216



VHBC MINISTRY STAFF

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

TYLER JOHNSON, MINISTER TO STUDENTS

MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR

DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

Fall kick-off is coming Sunday, August 14th!
Read more about it in the upcoming
Connections newsletter!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **SEED CAMP HIGHLIGHTS**
- **ORDINATIONS IN JULY**
- **INSTALLATION SERVICE OF PASTOR SPIVEY**
- **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH MARTHA NEILL**

