

end of
summer
edition

ISSUE 15

JULY 25
2023

vhbc

Connections



HIGHLIGHTS:
YOUTH BEACH TRIP
KIDS CAMP
NEW MEMBERS

COMING SOON:
PROMOTION SUNDAY
FALL KICKOFF
FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

Minister to Preschool & Children	Nancy Akins
Interim Student Coordinator	Sara Binet
Administrative Pastor	Mike McBrayer
Senior Pastor	Dr. Eric Spivey
Ministry Assistant	Laura Tadlock
Minister of Music & Worship	Marty Watts

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4	WEEKLY SCHEDULE
5	FEATURED ARTICLE
7	VHBC YOUTH
8	VHBC CHILDREN
9	VOLUNTEERS
10	UPCOMING EVENTS
11	WELCOME TO VHBC

TABLE OF contents

WEEKLY SCHEDULE



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. (During the Fall/Spring)

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 \$7 per person
- Kids (K-6th) \$5 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





A Vital Packing List

by Laura Tadlock

A decade or so ago there was a show called *Everyone Loves Raymond*. A quirky family of five with nosy in-laws across the street. I recall an entire episode written around a suitcase. The suitcase that the husband and wife used for a trip that never made it past the landing of the stairs. Each spouse expected the other should take care of it and it ended in a hilarious battle of wills. I can relate to the suitcase on the landing. I hate unpacking, but worse, I hate to pack.


I hate packing. I hate thinking about it. I hate managing it. I hate it all. When my girls were little, I was great at putting together their suitcases for trips to grandparents or vacation. I packed outfits together so they knew what went with what; made sure everyone had more than they needed- toiletries in containers, just in case medicines, shoes in shoe bags, and bags of hair accessories. I managed to pack for them with skill and style and timeliness.

But me—I am the 15 minutes before we leave for Europe packer. I am running around the bedroom making sure I have shoes and a toothbrush waving the curling iron to cool off so it can be packed. My children make fun of me and my husband fusses. Because you see they are all good do-ahead packers. Lindsay makes a detailed list; Elizabeth plans her trip wardrobe and Dale packs days in advance. I am the lone ranger of ill-prepared procrastination in packing and unpacking. I am also the “I just unpacked the suitcase in July from the May trip to DC” person.

This is not surprising to me as I know I work better under pressure. In school I struggled with long-range projects that needed time and attention along the semester rather than 2 days before. As a house cleaner, maintenance is not my thing. However, two hours before my family arrives from Texas you best know I am working up a sweat. This practice of procrastination has served me well for the most part. Urgency brings action; Necessity requires results; Countdowns are a call to engage.

However, my procrastination impacts many areas of my life, including my discipleship. Consistent times of prayer, Scripture study, meditation, contemplation, moments of quiet, listening for the still strong voice of God – these are all faith practices I value and utilize, but if I am honest it tends to be when I am at the end of myself. When I have done everything I know and can do and then I finally decide to pack my suitcase and seek out God. I put off the engagement with God because I say to myself..





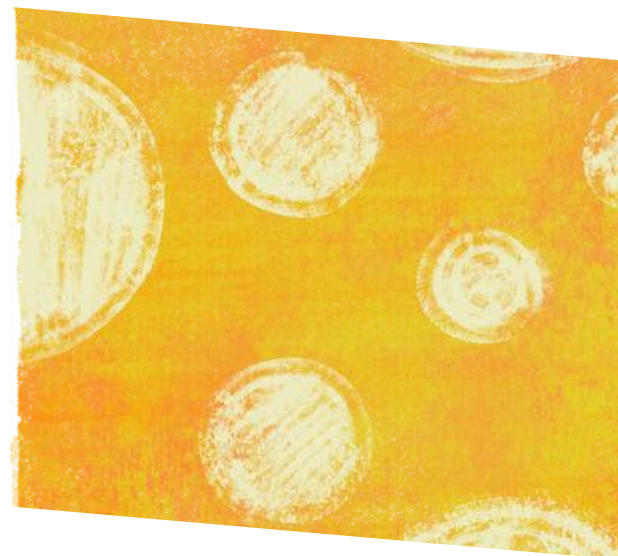
"I'm good!" I rationalize nothing dire is happening. I convince myself my emotions and experiences are well under control. And so I put off packing the gifts and truths of my faith and refrain from bringing myself to God.

We are about to enter one of the busiest seasons of the year- so long summer and hello fall! It's Back to School, a return to full schedules, lengthy to do lists and timely projects. It's a new beginning with unknowns and heart-filled hopes for the right teacher and friends, for work and projects to come to fruition, for healing and wholeness physically and spiritually. In our study of Isaiah this past week, Isaiah 25 gave the people of Judah a reprieve of the doom and gloom prophecy and offered a reminder of who their God was and is - a fierce protector, a gracious host, and a loyal friend even amidst the uncertainty of life. Isaiah knew we needed to remember who God is when our life is chaos, when our hope is shaky and when our journey is new and may seem unclear. There are attributes and gifts from God we must carry with us to sustain our minds and hearts and spirits when we are overwhelmed, over committed, and over anxious. So I wonder... What are you packing to carry with you into fall? Is your suitcase still full of June's beach trip sand? Are you ignoring the suitcase on the landing?

As we move from the fun filled days of summer into fall, don't follow my procrastination practice - think about what you need to pack for the gifts and challenges that await you this August. Make a list, plan ahead, pray, listen, commit to Bible study, be present in worship, and volunteer to love on babies. Ask yourself: What sustains you spiritually? What tools do you need to utilize and carry with you? How are you going to use your time? What are your priorities? Then you will know what to pack.

I will celebrate my birthday this week. What I have thought about most for this 52nd year of life is how I want to shape my life, rather than life shaping me. This is true for my spiritual life. Intentionality and thought is needed to replace my last minute procrastination and do it myself mentality. I need to pack my suitcase with the love, study and guidance of God. Then I will be ready for the journey - whatever unfolds. **Join me and let's get packing!**

Laura





VHBC YOUTH

AUGUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Smalls

7/30 & 8/6 2-4 pm
Guys at the Coopers'
Girls at the McFarlands'
(pool open 4-6 pm at the McFarlands' for all!)

Wednesday Night Live

returns on 8/2 at 6 pm

Lake Day

8/5 at the Youngbloods' 8-6 pm
Sign up online at vhbc.com!

Last 529

of the summer in the student building
on 8/7 from 5-9 pm



Back to
SCHOOL

RETREAT

8/18-19 Hargis Christian Camp

More details coming soon!!!

VHBC CHILDREN

WORSHIP CARE

NEEDS YOU!

WE HAVE SEVERAL SPOTS OPEN!

Worship Care is the weekly care of preschoolers during Sunday morning worship. Volunteers can sign up to serve one Sunday a month, every other Sunday, or every fifth Sunday. Please contact Nancy (nancy@vhbc.com)!

GET READY

FOR AUGUST!!!

AUGUST 6:

8:45 AM BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY IN ACTIVITY ROOM
10 AM BACKPACK BLESSING IN WORSHIP

AUGUST 13

8:45 AM NEW CLASSES BEGIN IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 AM 1ST GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION IN WORSHIP



**SUCH A GREAT GROUP
FOR KIDS CAMP AT
PASSPORT!**

VOLUNTEERS

AROUND THE CHURCH

July 30: Amy Gillis, Caroline Nordlund, Maria Madden, Hadley McFarland, David & Cathy Compher, Barbara Kimbrel

August 6: Laura Tadlock, Kristie Chandler, Libby Pittman, Emily Dorion, Dan & Gay Caldwell, Becky Best

worship care

July 30/August 6: Sharon Hartzog, George Elliott, Howard Finch, Dan Caldwell, Lauren Hartzog, Cappy Blackwelder, Lisa Speegle, Jason Cooper

welcome team

July 30: Jan Dulin, Becky Griffith

August 6: Sharon Hartzog, Todd Jordan

deacons

July 30: Greg Ruff, Hal David, Peter Leberte

August 6: Hal David, Brent Warren, Norfleete Day

worship tech



Thank
you

So grateful to George Van Kirk & Scott McGinnis for painting the library! It looks wonderful!





Upcoming at VHBC

Fellowship Supper

returns August 2nd!

Menu: Meatloaf, Squash Casserole, Italian Green Beans, Cornbread Muffins, & Grilled Peach Dessert

Adults: \$7
Children: \$5

Back Together Again

on Wednesdays!

- August 2nd hear from members sharing their stories! Gilda Coker, Kay Wilburn, and Eric Spivey share highlights from their Pilgrimage to Israel; and a special guest from Ukraine shares about an ongoing counseling ministry for citizens impacted by the war. Come and hear their stories!
- August 9th Quarterly Business Meeting
- August 16th Let's join together in the fellowship hall to hear where God has been at work among us this summer from children to adults!

New Sunday Class starting August 6th!

The Men's Bible Study class is making a big change and will be a Co-ed class. Senior adults 60 and over are invited to join!

blood drive

August 1st

1-6 pm

Fellowship Hall

Register at vhbc.com

Welcome to VHBC

Jordan Alexander grew up in Tupelo, MS the son of a preacher. Most of his family still resides there. While he has a love for all things Mississippi, including Mississippi State where he started college, he eventually graduated with a degree in Marketing and Journalism from Ole Miss.

Jordan lived and worked in Montana after graduation. This was a perfect place for him because he loves nature and all things outdoors – camping, hiking, fishing. It was on a trip home that he met Elise (Pittman) through a friend.

Jordan and Elise began dating during Covid which meant that he got introduced to VHBC mostly through live-streamed services. He met members slowly, and in more one-on-one situations, rather than all at once. Jordan said what he likes best about VHBC is the community feel where everyone seems well- invested. He commented that he has always felt loved and noticed.



Jordan and Elise married at the church in March. They are currently members of Mindy and Dick Bodenhamer's Sunday school class, which as of now is still unnamed. They enjoy running, being outside, and hanging out with friends and family. They also love to travel and are in France as I write this! The Alexander family motto is living each day to the fullest. Sounds like they are doing just that. Welcome, Jordan!



New Food Service Director!

Ann Franklin has joined the VHBC staff as our Food Service Director! She will be serving our first dinner back on August 2nd! She loves bringing joy to people through handcrafting a delicious dish. She hopes that her passion for healthy and traditional comfort food will shine through in all she makes!

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LAST CHANCE

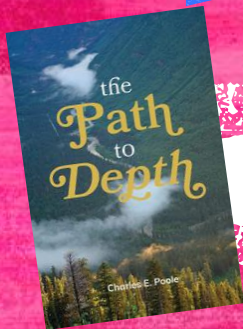


This Sunday, Laura Tadlock will be wrapping up her series on the book of Isaiah for our Sunday morning Bible study groups. 8:45 for donuts and coffee, 9 for Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, August 2nd will be the conclusion of Laura's "Dig Deeper" sessions on the book of Isaiah. 10 am in the seminar room.

NEW

Books in the Library



"The path to depth" is a simple name for the neverending journey to a deeper life with God. VHBC member, Chuck Poole has written a story of our lifelong journey - thirsting for the goodness we do not yet have; longing for a deeper life with God.

A Church for Rachel, also by Chuck Poole, is a collection of discourses written for, and among, those who mourn, grieve, struggle, and wonder.

