

WHSU Connections



LIMINAL SPACES

DR. ERIC SPIVEY

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05 VHBC YOUTH

DON'T FORGET!

COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL ENDS THIS SUNDAY, JULY 31ST!

8:45 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Joseph's Providence

Genesis 45:1-15

Leader: Laura Tadlock

FIND VHBC ONLINE



WATCH RECENT SERVICES



CONNECT



STAY UPDATED



IN TUNE WITH VHBC PODCAST



GIVE ONLINE SHELBYNEXT



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WWW.VHBC.COM

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HAPPENINGS AROUND VHBC!

03 PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Eric discusses a new word he learned during the pandemic.

04 THANK YOU

After their recent ordinations, Tyler & Alexis Johnson express their gratitude to the VHBC community.

06 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

07 NEWS & EVENTS

We're highlighting staff, fall kick-off events, and all kinds of news at VHBC this week!

08 LOOKING AHEAD ON SUNDAYS

How can we learn to walk by faith this August and also learn ANEW this fall?

09 LOOKING AHEAD ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays begin AGAIN on August 3rd at VHBC.

10 CONNECTED IN PRAYER

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

11 PASSPORT KIDS HIGHLIGHTS

 PASTOR'S ARTICLE

LIMINAL SPACES

By Dr. Eric Spivey

THE PANDEMIC INTRODUCED A NOVEL WORD INTO MY VOCABULARY: *LIMINAL*. LIMINAL COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD FOR THRESHOLD, THE SPACE BETWEEN ONE PLACE AND ANOTHER. LIMINAL TIME IS THE TIME BETWEEN ONE EXISTENCE AND ANOTHER. IT IS IN-BETWEEN TIME - BETWEEN THE ALREADY AND THE NOT YET.

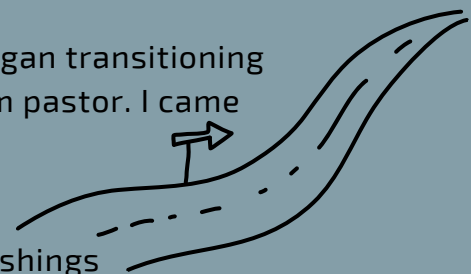
As Christians we live within the liminal space of God's Kingdom. Jesus initiated God's Kingdom when he lived on Earth. We live with the joy and energy of God's Kingdom. Yet, God's Kingdom is not complete until Jesus returns. We wait for the Kingdom yet to be. God's Kingdom is already and not yet.

As the sacred partners of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, we have been living in other liminal spaces over the last several years. We lived through the liminal space of the pandemic - the space between what used to be normal and what will be. While many of the pandemic restrictions are gone (already), Covid still impacts daily life (not yet). What church, community, and life will be next is still to be determined.

The interim season of our church after Gary's retirement was also a liminal space. The church slowed down, called out a transition team, listened to God's Spirit within us, asked tough questions, listened to one another, and ultimately created a Congregational Profile detailing who are and who we feel God calling us to be. Then, the church called out a search committee who, listening to the Spirit of God within our church, began to listen to the Spirit of God within pastoral candidates. After a time of discernment, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church called me to be your 5th Senior Pastor on Sunday, February 27, 2022.

Our Call Sunday initiated a new liminal season. The church quickly began transitioning to a new pastor. We blessed Dr. Bill Owens for his work as our interim pastor. I came for my first Sunday on Easter.

Over the last several months, Marcia and I have been transitioning to our new life and ministry in Birmingham. We have moved our furnishings into PODs, settled into our life at the Hardy House and started work with a local realtor.



**continued on
next page**

Liminal seasons are vital. In these threshold seasons we learn to let go of things and gain a vision of a new future. The uncertainty of these seasons requires us to listen to the movement of the Spirit and trust in God's work in our lives. Liminal seasons change us. We are different people of God because of the liminal seasons we have lived through together over the last several years.

EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, WE MOVE THROUGH THE THRESHOLD INTO SOMETHING NEW. LIMINAL TIME ENDS.

This Sunday, **July 31st at 10:00 am**, we will celebrate our **Pastor Installation Celebration**. This service celebrates the arrival of a new senior pastor, the end of the interim season, the excitement of God's future, and the presence of God through it all. The service will be led by representatives from our Baptist family, friends and mentors of mine, the Pastor Search Committee, and congregational leaders. This service celebrates the end of several seasons in the church's life and points us forward to the new things the Lord has in store for us.

Let me encourage you to reflect on your experiences during these liminal spaces to see both where the Lord has been present and how you are different as we move into the future. We have a great worship experience planned for Sunday.

I look forward to seeing you. **You are loved.**



We want to say thank you to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church for walking with us through this season of discernment leading to our ordinations this past Sunday. We specifically want to thank the ordination councils, whose work and thoughtful dedication to this process has been a breath of fresh air and an act of public affirmation of God's call on our lives.

We also would like to thank the staff and lay leaders for their work in planning and executing the service with such high quality and intentionality. We were also able to have friends and family tune in from Knoxville, Tennessee, Seattle, Washington, and everywhere in between because of the sound and tech leadership.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the membership of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church for your blessings, affirmation, and love that has

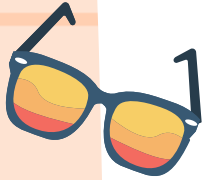
known no bounds. From welcoming us earlier than expected in 2019 with the premature birth of our daughter, Nora, to loving and caring for Tyler during a prolonged illness, trusting us with your loved ones through a pandemic, and now ordaining us for Gospel ministry, we are truly overwhelmed by your love, grace, and affirmation to our calls here in Birmingham.

We have found a beautiful home here in Birmingham. Living in Hoover, working in Vestavia and downtown, we have adopted Birmingham, and in return Birmingham has adopted us, all because of you and the amazing God who dwells and works through each of us.

Grace and Peace,
Reverends Tyler & Alexis Johnson

VHBC YOUTH
august 2022

Lake
★ DAY ★



AUGUST 6, 2022
8 AM - 5 PM



SIGN UP & PAY \$30 AT [VHBC.COM/YOUTH](https://vhbc.com/youth)

Sunscreen ▪ Bathing Suit ▪ Towel ▪ Water Bottle ▪ Shareable Snack

LAST SUMMER SMALLS

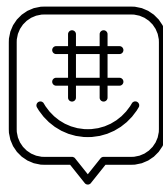
8/7 at 2 pm

Everyone at the McFarlands!'



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8/6** Lake Day
- 8/7** Summer Smalls
- 8/8** 529
- 8/10** Summer Review
- 8/14** Kick-off Sunday
- 8/17** Kick-off WNL



KEEP UP WITH ALL THE THINGS ON GROUPME!

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



WEDNESDAYS (no Wednesday activities in July)

NEWS & EVENTS

AROUND THE CHURCH



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

Fill out the survey at VHBC.com to give us your input on how we can connect our VHBC community this fall!



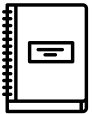
RECOGNITION OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

on Sunday, August 7th for Martha Neill during worship. A reception in the foyer will follow the service.



NAME TAG SUNDAYS

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



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, August 3, 6 pm
Fellowship Hall



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!



VHBC STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Laura Tadlock has been serving on our staff as a Ministry Assistant in the area of Missions & Discipleship for the past year. Her work was a vital part of making sure good ministry continued during our pastoral interim. Since Eric's arrival, Laura has continued to coordinate ministries including

Seed Camp, Wednesday Sessions, engagement with mission partners, and supporting staff ministries. While working part-time on our staff, Laura has also been serving as a chaplain resident through the UAB Center for Pastoral Care which she will complete in the coming weeks. We are happy to have Laura continue with us as a Ministry Assistant as we enter the fall. She will be organizing our Wednesday Sessions, small group offerings, working with our Winter Retreat committee, and coordinating a variety of mission engagement opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION DESK

July 31 Barbara Kimbrel
Aug 7 Mel Crowder

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 31
Babies & Ones: Precious Thomas, Latesha Brown
Twos-K: Tara Pope, Donnetta Williams

Aug 7
Regularly scheduled teachers are back in the classroom in August.

WORSHIP CARE (9:45 am until end of worship)

July 31
Babies & Ones: Precious Thomas, Latesha Brown
Twos-K: Tara Pope, Donnetta Williams

Aug 7
Babies & Ones: Laura Tadlock, Sara Taylor
Twos-K: Dan & Gay Caldwell



VHBC children's ministry

AUGUST SCHEDULE

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY
Sunday, August 7th, 8:45 am
1st-6th Graders meet in the Activity Room

BACKPACK BLESSING
Sunday, August 7th, 10 am
Wear your empty backpack during the blessing in worship.

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY
Sunday, August 14th
8:45 am - Begin a new year in Bible Study!
10 am - **First Grade Bible Presentation**

MUSIC & MISSIONS

Wednesday, August 17th for Preschool 4 - Grade 6
Music meets from 5:30-6:15 pm
Mission Friends, GA, & RAs meet from 6:15-7 pm

WORSHIP SKILLS CLASS

Sunday, August 21, 10 am during worship
All first graders & a parent invited to Seminar Room



LOOKING AHEAD



AUGUST SERMON SERIES

Walk by Faith Living in God's Future

In 2 Corinthians 5:7 Paul describes our life with Jesus. He says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." In the book of Hebrews, the author describes what walking by faith, not by sight looks like in real people. During the month of August, Pastor Eric will preach from Hebrews a sermon series challenging us to step out in faith. We live in God's future one faithful step at a time.

August 7: Faith Steps, Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

August 14: Faith Lives, Hebrews 11: 29- 12:1

August 21: Faith Thrives, Hebrews 12:1-2, 18-29

August 28: Faith Endures, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16



As the summer winds down, it is a natural time of transition. Students and teachers return to school, the sweltering heat slowly gives way, our favorite football teams take the field, and we look forward to what the change of season will bring in our lives. The changing seasons are but one way that our world is made new. Renewal is a gift that we can count on from God and it blesses us as both individuals and as a congregation.

We, as VHBC, are in a new season of life together and in the upcoming year we are excited to discover and explore how God will move in us and through us. We can expect to be blessed in some familiar ways, and in some new, even surprising ways. Our **2022 Fall Kickoff is Sunday, August 14**, and it will mark the beginning of an exciting year. Come, and be a part, as together we join in God's Transformational Story, **ANEW!**



LOOKING AHEAD



Reserve meals for your family online, join our standing reservation list, or come when you can for dinner, starting August 3rd at 4:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

AUGUST MENU

- 3rd:** Greek Pasta Salad, Roasted Red Pepper Hummus & Chips, Garlic Bread, Dessert (Kids: Pizza & Fries)
- 10th:** Stuffed Shells, Roasted Eggplant, Garlic Bread, Dessert (Kids: Chicken Fingers & Fries)
- 17th:** Poppy Seed Chicken, Basmati Rice, Roll, Dessert (Kids: Pizza & Fries)
- 24th:** Chicken & Dumplings, Rosemary Carrots, Roll, Dessert (Kids: Pizza & Fries)
- 31st:** Sausage Summer Pasta, Fruit Salad, Roll, Dessert (Kids: Chicken Fingers & Fries)



AUGUST 3RD
Quarterly Business Meeting
6 pm

AUGUST 10TH
Summer at VHBC Review
6 pm

AUGUST 17TH
A Call to Community
with Pastor Eric Spivey
6 pm
Pastor Spivey will share his vision for the coming year at VHBC!



Looking at our present lives through the lens of endings, Pastor Eric Spivey will help us explore a biblically based vision of a whole world created by and redeemed by God. We will examine the Bible as story, talk about heaven, reflect on our role in God's creation, and discover the power of prayer. Join us on Wednesday nights, starting on **August 24th!**

CONNECTED IN PRAYER

IN THE HOSPITAL

LaRue Speights - Procedure 7/26

IN RECOVERY & ONGOING TREATMENTS

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

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	

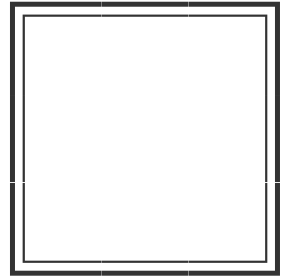
CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Joan Crye and family in the death of her mother, Ardath Grizzell on July 19th.

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

VHBC CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY
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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 today's newsletter.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR PASTOR SPIVEY

FALL KICKOFF

THANK YOU FROM THE JOHNSONS

SMALL GROUP SURVEY AND MORE

