

JUNE 27, 2023

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

vhbc CONNECTIONS

**PILGRIMAGE
HIGHLIGHTS
FROM ERIC**

**NEW MEMBERS
SPOTLIGHT**

**SUMMERTIME
FUN**

ISS. 13

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CONNECTIONS

A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

JUNE 26-JULY 5, 2023

Early this morning a pilgrimage team of 24 people, including friends from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church landed in Tel Aviv to begin a 10-day journey through the Holy Land. Led by Eric Spivey, the team will visit many familiar Biblical locations including Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Caesarea Phillipi, Capernaum, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. A Christian pilgrimage to holy places stimulates our connection to scriptures and the Spirit God. It invites us into a life of prayer. We go on a pilgrimage to experience spiritual growth.



Below is a list of our VHBC sacred partners who are on pilgrimage. Join them in prayer as they visit these sites and travel home on July 5th.

- Gilda Coker
- Norfleete Day
- Elene Griffith
- Sharon Hartzog
- Barbara Kimbrel
- Cherri Morriss
- Wendy Rodgers
- Bettye Smith
- Eric Spivey
- Sydney Spivey
- George Van Kirk
- Patsy Van Kirk
- Kay Wilburn
- Mike Wilburn

LISTEN & SEE

Last week, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church hosted the Encore Strings Summer Academy with some of our favorite musicians, Samuel & Caroline Nordlund, and Angela & Jeffrey Flaniken.

Students ages 7-18 were invited to participate for violin group classes, cello choir, studio classes, and music theory/history. At the end of the week, they performed what they learned during camp! **If you missed it, there's always next year!**

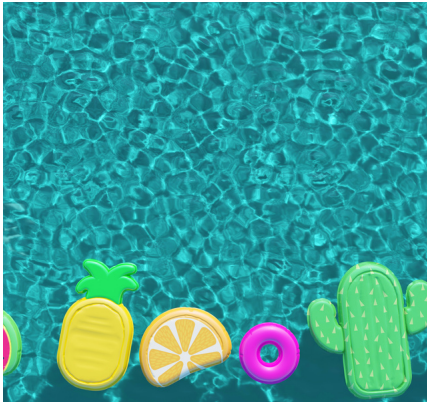


ENCORE STRINGS QUARTET

SUMMER FUN

**CHECK YOUR
MAIL FOR THE
JULY CALENDAR!**

POOL TIME



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

ACTIVITIES



Fireworks on 7/4, Laser Tag on 7/5, Dinner & a Movie on 7/14, Splash Adventure on 7/19, & Movie Matinee on 7/25!

FELLOWSHIP



Summer Smalls
Sundays in July
(except 7/9)
2-4 pm

529
7/3, 7/17, & 7/31
5-9 pm
Student Building
(bring \$ for dinner!)

WELCOME WAGON



Anna Claire Bailey & Taylor Davis

Taylor Davis and Anna Claire Bailey joined VHBC on Easter Sunday, the day Anna Claire was baptized. They come with their daughter Cecilia who will be two years old in September.

Taylor is originally from Boaz, and Anna Claire grew up in Gadsden. They met when they were both attending the University of Alabama. After college, they ended up in Birmingham and have been married since 2019. Taylor is a banker with Eva Bank. Anna Claire works in early intervention at United Ability, along with VHBC members Melissa Pouncey and Meredith Hankins.

Anna Claire visited VHBC with her aunt, Billie Lochamy, several times through the years since she has lived in Birmingham. After the pandemic - and when they got Cecilia on a one-nap-a-day schedule - she and Taylor started looking for a church home. At VHBC they found a very welcoming community. The worship style, music, preaching and Bible study resonate with them. They have become very involved in Dick and Mindy Bodenhamer’s young adult Bible study class, and they have recently signed up to participate in Worship Care. They are looking forward to other opportunities as Cecilia grows into the activities of the children’s ministry.

We welcome Taylor & Anna Claire into our fellowship!

Jack & Hamp McMurray

Jack and Hamp McMurray are the sons of Melissa and Dan and younger brothers to Collins. They have been part of this church their whole lives, which is probably why Jack described his favorite thing about Vestavia Hills Baptist as it being a place that “feels like family where everyone knows everyone else.”

Jack is a recent graduate of Vestavia Hills High School. He has a senior trip to the Dominican Republic planned immediately following graduation. He will start Auburn in the fall where he plans to double major in Accounting and German. In high school, Jack's interests included football and wrestling.



He was the leader of the FCA chapter and also very involved in RISE, VHHS's annual cancer fundraiser. **continued on page 7**



WELCOME WAGON CONTINUED



During his summers, Jack was involved with Camp Winnataska – for 10 years as a camper, and now for 3 years as a leader.

A little known fact about Jack is that he loves to cook and host dinners for his friends. One of his favorite things to cook is pasta.

Jack had originally hoped to be baptized at the end of his freshman year, but that was spring of 2020, so it didn't happen. When Gary retired, his plans got pushed out even farther. He is grateful that he was finally able to fulfil his wish and is happy to be an official member of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

Hamp just completed his freshman year at Vestavia Hills High School. His interests include track – where he throws and took second place in discus – and art – where he works in multiple mediums and has even won 3 competitions. He is also involved in SGA.

There are more members of the McMurray family that Hamp told me about. Three small, but loud, dogs: Abbey, Tucker, and Teddy.

Hamp's favorite thing about church is 428 since it is a "chill time to hang out with friends." He went on to say that 428 even makes Mondays fun.

It was at last summer's Passport Youth Camp where Hamp first felt the call to make a public profession of faith. During the churchwide retreat at Shocco Springs earlier this year, he felt the call again, and knew he was ready.



Janet Garner

Janet Garner is originally from Panama City, FL and has lived in other cities in Florida during her life. Her husband was a deacon and choir director at First Baptist Church in Bloomingdale, FL. As a young adult, Janet taught young children. Later, she worked as a secretary for the fire department in Fort Pierce, FL. She took classes and became certified as an arson investigator. She was one of the first women in her area who worked in that position. In that role, she also taught fire safety in schools and community organizations. She had achieved the rank of lieutenant when she retired as an arson investigator. Janet recently adopted a cat, Pretty Boy, and says he is good company. She said she now finds sitting to knit and crochet boring.

Janet and her husband had two children: a son, who still lives in Florida, and a daughter, who lived in Birmingham. Janet and her husband moved to Birmingham at the urging of their daughter. Her husband died, and her daughter died of ovarian cancer soon after his death. She lost her connection with a church during this time. **continued on page 8**

VOLUNTEERS

AROUND THE CHURCH

July 2: Sara Taylor, Amy Hamilton, Libby Pittman, Marcia Spivey, Jo Davis, Amelia Grace Stewart, & Judy Schlegel

July 9: Millie Ehrett, Sharon Hartzog, Faye Suggs, Maggie Doss, Kevin Jaquess, Isabel Jaquess, Jay McFarland

worship care

July 2: Joe Perez, Howard Finch, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lisa Speegle, Kathy Finch

July 9: Joe Perez, Sharon Hartzog, Brandi & Larry Brownell, Dan Caldwell, Cappy Blackwelder, Lauren Hartzog, Kathy & Howard Finch

welcome team

July 2: Bruce Burson & Jennifer Carter

July 9: John Chandler & Mary Grace Cox

deacons

July 2: Greg Ruff, Hal David

July 9: Brent Warren, Hal David, Lilie Van Giessen

worship tech



WELCOME WAGON CONTINUED

Janet lived at Town Village for 4 years. She now lives in independent living at Elite Senior Living, formerly Mount Royal Towers. While at Town Village, she met Gail Logan, a VHBC member, who invited her to join us for worship services. Janet accepted her invitation and joined Vestavia Hills Baptist church on April 30, 2023. Janet enjoys the fellowship of fellow Christians and wants to be involved in the church. She is a member of the Friendship class, taught by Becky Griffith. She has signed up for Wednesday evening Fellowship meals, and she has attended a senior adult game day. She would like to volunteer for church programs and ministries, such as VBS and serving fellowship meals.

We are so happy to have Janet as part of our church family at VHBC!

PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT VHBC?



We hope everyone enjoyed spending some time out on the town with staff & members of VHBC for dinner last week!

Around the Town



Barons vs. Trash Pandas

For those who will be attending the Barons game tomorrow night, please meet us at the front gate between 6:30-7 pm for your tickets before first pitch at 7:05 pm. See you there!



Please be in prayer for Seed Camp in Perry County, which begins July 9-13. Pray for the Alabama CBF team, including VHBC members Lucas, Emily, Nash, & Sarah Cate Dorion, Sara Binet, Luke Binet, and Adie Carter.

JULY SUNDAY STUDY



July 2 - July 30 at 9 am

Let's spend five Sunday mornings together over donuts and coffee, starting July 2nd at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join Laura Tadlock as she teaches from the book of Isaiah. We will examine 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 will open ourselves up to God's work in our lives today - listening for and recognizing the mysterious, powerful, and grace-filled presence of our God. Make plans to be a part of this Sunday morning Bible study in July.

Dig Deeper



Beginning 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.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:45 AM 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 summer, students meet at 2 pm at YMT hosts' homes.



Wednesday

PROGRAMMING & REHEARSALS WILL RESUME IN AUGUST

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DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR

LAURA TADLOCK, MINISTRY ASSISTANT

MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON ZOOM

Our Contemplative Prayer group led by George Van Kirk continues to meet on ZOOM through July 26th. Please sign up through the link on the events page at vhbc.com or contact George Van Kirk for more information at vankirk@gmail.com.

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