

SPECIAL  
VBS  
EDITION

# VBS

## CONNECTIONS



### STORIES FROM SLOVAKIA

read about our IME students and chaperones about their experiences teaching and learning in Slovakia

### YOUTH CHOIR

special performance from the FBC Roswell Youth Choir this Sunday at 4:30 pm

TICKETS TO BARONS GAME ON SALE NOW!  
**\$10**

JUNE 13, 2023

FOOD TRUCK PARTY  AROUND THE TOWN: DINNER WITH THE STAFF



# EAT EATS

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### VHBC GIVING

June budget: \$148,531.00  
 June offering: \$64,835.00  
 YTD budget: \$822,624.00  
 YTD offering: \$735,331.00

# 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.

## 4:45 PM FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

- Meet us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4:45 every Wednesday.
- Register online weekly at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com) to reserve your meal!
- Adults/Youth \$8 per person
- Kids (K-6th) \$6 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



# SUMMER SHIFT



On Monday morning at 2:00 AM, our Slovakia IME team tumbled out of the bus from the Atlanta airport and into their sleepy parent's vehicles. The journey home took longer than expected, but it never dampened their experience of the Spirit of God from their mission in Slovakia.

Seven hours later, many of these same teenagers joined dozens of adults as we welcomed children to Vacation Bible School. The walls of our building sang the entire morning with the energy, song, and voices of children learning about the Bible and Jesus.

Monday, June 12, 2023, was a full day in the ministry life of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. Yet, it's just one day among many. Our halls buzz each week as we care for one another through the challenges of life; as we engage each generation with the opportunity for Christian fellowship; and as we study the Bible and worship our Triune God.

Our pandemic experience reminds us to never take these days for granted. Being together in one place, safely doing the work of the church, is one of the great gifts of our lives.

[pastor's article continues on next page](#)



Our VHBC International Mission Experience team on May 31st.



Our IME group in the midst of their trip.



Most of our youth arrived bright and early Monday morning for VBS, many of whom arrived home from Slovakia at 2:30 am that same morning.



As we move deeper into the summer, our ministries will shift. We'll still send kids and youth to camps, but we'll stop our weekday meals and programs. Our Sunday Bible study teachers will take a month sabbatical in July as Laura Tadlock teaches our combined classes in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 AM. As our ministries shift let me invite you to look for new ways to connect to the church: Attend one of our Around the Town Meal meetups. Join us at the Barons Game. Get to know new people in the joint Sunday Bible Study.

God is at work in our church. Let us join the Spirit and engage where we feel the Spirit moving. Then, when we find ourselves in August, we will be ready for the next new thing of God to begin.

I'll see you on Sunday.

Eric



### Recognition of Gary Furr as Pastor Emeritus on June 18, 2023

At the end of Sunday's worship, Vestavia Hills will honor our retired pastor, Dr. Gary Furr. First, we will recognize Gary's new honorary title, Pastor Emeritus. Gary served us for over 26 years as pastor. We are grateful to honor his life and ministry with this title as he continues to be present among us.

Second, we will unveil the new pastor's portrait of Dr. Furr to hang with distinction with our four preceding pastors in our Dennis Anderson Seminar Room. Our History Committee along with the generosity of individual members made this portrait possible.

Look for a picture of the portrait in the next Connections Newsletter.

### Guest Preacher, Laura Tadlock on July 2nd



While Pastor Eric Spivey leads a pilgrimage team to Israel the last of June and first of July, please welcome our own Laura Tadlock to the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church pulpit. Laura is chaplain with UAB and works part time at VHBC as our Ministry Assistant, Discipleship and Missions. This summer Laura is working through the process of ordination at VHBC with her ordination committee.

Laura is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity. Laura has spent the last 25 years working in churches and private educational settings. Laura enjoys teaching and preaching, and she will be doing both in July as she teaches the adult Bible study on Isaiah. Laura, her husband, Dale, and daughters, Elizabeth and Lindsay have enjoyed a decade of discipleship, fellowship, and ministry at VHBC.

# VOLUNTEERS

## AROUND THE CHURCH

### WORSHIP CARE

June 18: Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer, Lisa Speegle, Merryl Cooper, Jennifer Carter, Melissa McBrayer, Dick Bodenhamer

June 25: Lisa Speegle, Brandi Brownell, Cathy Donze, Abbey Donze, Adam Pouncey, Melissa Pouncey, Virginia Wood

### WELCOME TEAM

June 18: Sharon Hartzog, Lauren Hartzog, Brandi Brownell, Larry Brownell, Dan Caldwell, Chuck & LaRue Gillespie, Kathy Finch, Fred Olive

June 25: Sharon Hartzog, Lauren Hartzog, Brandi Brownell, Larry Brownell, Dan Caldwell, Chuck & LaRue Gillespie, Kathy Finch, Fred Olive

### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

June 18-24: Dennis Anderson and Brandon Bates

June 25-July 1: Jennifer Binet and Dick Bodenhamer

### TRANSPORTATION TEAM

June 18: William Dupree and Cris Speegle

June 25: Tommy Cherry and Ken Farley

### WORSHIP TECH TEAM

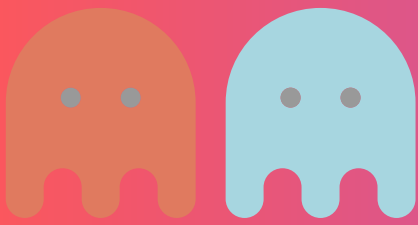
June 18: Hal David, Brent Warren, David Philpot

June 25: Lilie VanGiessen, Hal David, Norfleete Day

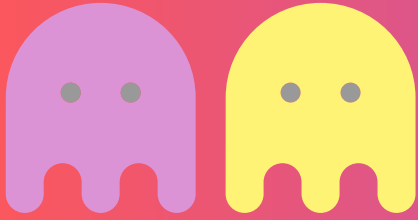
## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

We love our Worship Care volunteers!





**YOUTH AND**



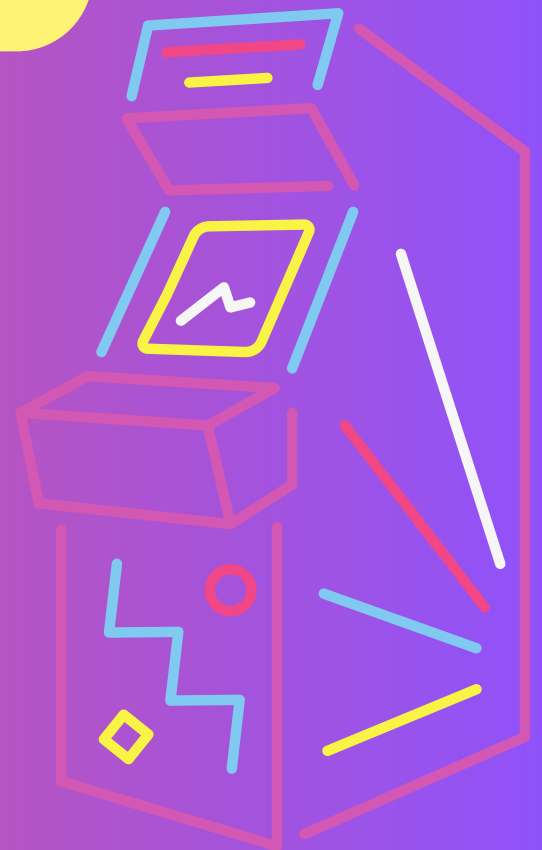
**CHILDREN**

**June events for VHBC  
Youth**

- June 14: Game Night from 5-7
- June 15: Family Fun Night from 5-7
- June 19: 529
- June 21: Around the Town at Davenport's with Sara
- June 28: Barons Game at 7

**July events for VHBC  
Children**

- July 16-19: PassportKIDS camp in Eatonton, GA
- TBD: July Fun Days with Nancy!

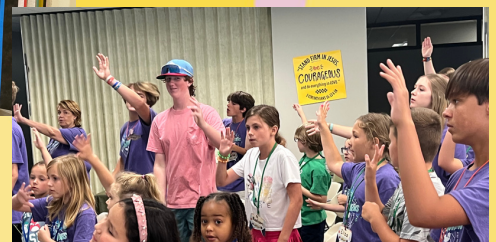
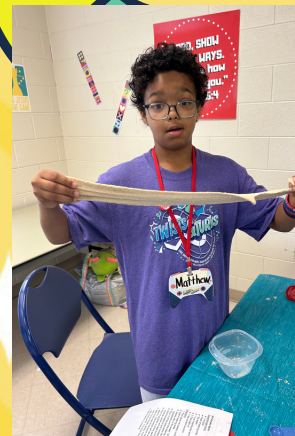
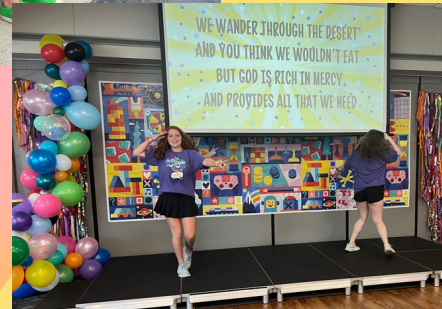




# TWISTS & TURNS

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME PSALM 25:4

## VBS AT VHBC 2023





# UPCOMING EVENTS @ VHBC

## June

VBS continues through June 15th - come by and take part in all of the fun!

No Wednesday night meal on June 14th - but we are having a Food Truck party on June 15th from 5-7 pm

Sunday, June 18th at 4:30 pm listen to the perform in the Sanctuary



First Baptist Roswell  
Youth Choir

Wednesday, June 21st is Around the Town with our VHBC Staff!

- Five Guys in Riverchase with Eric
- Moss Rock Tacos in Hoover with Mike
- Martin's BBQ in Cahaba Heights with Nancy
- Newk's in Vestavia with Marty
- Davenport's at the City Center with Sara B



Thursday, June 22nd join our Senior Adult Ministry for a Movie Matinee showing of The Pink Panther (1963 version) at 2 pm.

Next Wednesday, June 28th you are invited to a Night with the Barons at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in the foyer at church or online at [vhbc.com](http://vhbc.com)!



# July events

Five Sunday Mornings Together, starting July 2nd at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall - Laura Tadlock will lead a study of Isaiah each week for our combined adult Bible study classes.

Seed Camp is coming July 10-13 in Perry County, AL! Contact Laura Tadlock for more info at [laura@vhbc.com](mailto:laura@vhbc.com) or click the link [here!](#)

## VHBC T-shirts

There are still plenty of VHBC t-shirts for sale in the church office, if you missed out during Spring Serve! We've got another batch in stock now. Adult shirts are \$10. Child shirts are \$5. Stop by the office, pick out your size, and take it home!

## Thank you from Marty Watts!

Please know of my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful celebration of my fifth staff anniversary as Minister of Music. I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of such a loving and supportive church family. I also appreciate so much the party and special gifts presented to me by the Sanctuary Choir.

I am immensely grateful to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church for providing me with a nurturing environment where I can utilize my gifts and talents to serve the Lord and our congregation. The love, trust, and support I have received from the church staff, the Music Ministry ensembles, and the entire congregation have made these past five years incredibly fulfilling and rewarding.

Once again, I express my deepest appreciation for the wonderful celebration, the kind words, and the beautiful gifts. Karyn, Duncan, and I are truly blessed to be a part of the VHBC family. May God continue to bless and guide our church as we journey together in faith, music, and ministry.

# THE IMPACT OF IME IN SLOVAKIA



During this past trip with my youth group, I was able to have an experience of a lifetime. I will forever cherish the memories that my fellow youth and I made over the course of 11 days. Our work was located in Cinobana and Lucenec, where we worked in the schools helping students practice their conversational English. Though our goal was to give the students our love and attention, I quickly realized that I was receiving the same if not more. The community that our youth and the student of Cinobana and Lucenec created made an exciting and welcoming atmosphere. I could see God shining through every single smile, laugh, or even tear that we shared. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people or place to spend my days with. The relationships that I've created will never be forgotten and will always remain a part of me and my journey through Christ.

--- EMILY COOPER

Going into the International Mission Experience, I was unsure that it would have a big impact on me. I've heard people rave about IME and how special of an experience it is, and there must be something special about Slovakia that makes our church keep going back, right? Well, after returning from IME, I can confirm that Slovakia is truly special. While I initially noticed Slovakia's beauty in the mountains and the fields, the week showed me that Slovakia holds so much beauty in its people.

I began the week terrified to talk with the kids in the schools. I didn't want to be judged. The kids showed me that they were equally as nervous, if not more. As the week went on, I was able to let go of some fear and pride, which allowed me to form incredible connections with the children and youth in Slovakia. I left Slovakia feeling like I had known it forever. The people that I met made somewhere more than 5,000 miles away from Alabama feel like home, and because of that I will never forget what IME meant to me.

---KATE MCGINNIS



I don't even know where to begin to start talking about this trip. A paragraph doesn't do it justice. This trip was truly life-changing. Being able to experience the Gothic architecture throughout Budapest, exploring the streets of Vienna, being awestruck by the beauty of the churches, and being astonished at the rolling hills and mountains in Slovakia... everything was amazing. I remember walking into the class on the very first day, being so incredible

nervous, I was sweating. As soon as I walked in, everything changed. Seeing the enormous smiles of 15 kids made me realize how special this was for the children and me, as well. Creating memories and bonding with students who shared the same interests is something I'll never forget. This trip confirmed that I had found my church home - I've been a regular attender for the past two years, even getting baptized at VHBC. God spoke to me over the trip and told me this would be my forever church home. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity with IME in Slovakia. --- BENNETT DEARING



**IME IN  
SLOVAKIA  
2023**

**VHBC CONNECTIONS** IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY  
BY VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## VHBC MINISTRY STAFF

NANCY AKINS, MINISTER TO  
PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN  
SARA BINET, INTERIM STUDENT COORDINATOR  
MIKE MCBRAYER, ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR  
DR. ERIC SPIVEY, SENIOR PASTOR  
LAURA TADLOCK, MINISTRY ASSISTANT  
MARTY WATTS, MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

## CONNECT WITH US

@VESTAVIAHILLSBC • WWW.VHBC.COM



VHBC FAMILY FUN

FOOD TRUCK

*night*

**JUNE 15  
5 PM**

food trucks  
live music  
games

vhbc front  
parking lot