

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Julia Buchanan**, a member of Great Bridge Baptist Church, will be a Junior at Charleston Southern University majoring in Elementary Education. She is the daughter of James and Marne Buchanan.



**Caitlin Irvine**, a member of Sedley Baptist Church, will be a Junior at Liberty University majoring in Nursing. She is the daughter of Brian and Amy Irvine.



**Kaitlyn Calkin**, a member of Coastal Community Church, will be a Junior at University of Virginia majoring in Economics and Religious Studies. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Staci Calkin.

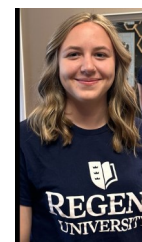


**Amanda Jacobs**, a member of Indian River Baptist Church, will be a Junior at James Madison University majoring in Health Sciences. She is the daughter of Tracey Jacobs.

**Lauren Engel**, a member of Great Bridge Baptist Church, will be a Junior at University of Richmond majoring in Health Studies and Biology (Pre-Med). She is the daughter of Gregory and Amy Engel.



**Gabrielle Williams**, a member of Woodland Heights Baptist Church, will be a Junior at Regent University majoring in Psychology. She is the daughter of Timothy and Karen Williams.



**Jacob Girardier**, a member of Great Bridge Baptist Church, will be a Sophomore at Liberty University majoring in Business and Data Analysis. He is the son of Robert and Emily Girardier.



**Aaden Young**, a member of Eastville Baptist Church, will be a Freshman majoring in Engineering. He is the son of Lisa Canton.

**Emma Hardaway**, a member of Blackwater Baptist Church, will be a Sophomore at Penn Foster majoring in Veterinary Technician. She is the daughter of Lynn and Maureen Hardaway.



**Ashton Hobbs**, a member of Great Bridge Baptist Church, will be a Junior at Tidewater Community College majoring in Radiography. He is the son of Millard and Kelli Hobbs.



## June Staff and Spouse Birthdays

2	Steve Miller	Hollies
2	William Colvin	Great Neck
3	Roxanne Nixon	Bayside
9	Kyle Radar	South Norfolk
9	Teresa Edwards	King's Grant
11	Angela Gilley	Carrow
13	Gloria Sabatino	Foundations of Faith
14	Robert Lee	Collinswood-Agape
16	Liz Barnes	Azalea
16	Michelle Jung	Tidewater Korean
23	Audrey Livingston	Shadowlawn
27	Nancy Tuttle	Point Harbor
30	Cody Ramsay	Modest Town



## July Staff and Spouse Birthdays

3	Michael Rhoad	International Christian
4	Prentis McGoldrick	Thalia Lynn
7	Jose Morelos	Point Harbor
11	Fred Lane	Adventure
11	David Sabatino	Foundation of Faith
12	Liz Lane	Adventure
12	Melissa Muender	Maranatha
14	Gabe Vega	Spurgeon
16	Mack Scott	Temple
16	Nate Hogan	Journey
17	Rick Williams	CrossLife
19	John Nixon	Bayside
21	Bryan Breland	Christ First, Suffolk
24	Matthew Childress	Brentwood
24	Christina Woolard	St. Paul
24	Marlin Hall	Manna
31	Jolene Rader	South Norfolk
31	Tim Liu	First Chinese



## When Losses Become Gains

Dr. Lynn Hardaway



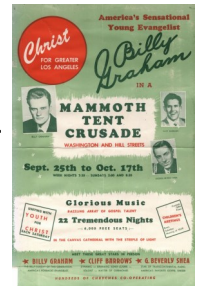
In 1937, Henrietta Mears found the perfect campground for Christian youth retreats in the San Bernardino Mountains, but the \$350,000 price tag was entirely out of reach. Shortly after, a severe storm caused flash floods that washed away three cabins on the property. Because of the damage, the dying owner offered to sell the camp to Mears for just \$30,000. That camp, Forest Home, went on to impact tens of thousands of young people, including a young **Billy Graham**, who overcame a major crisis of faith at that very camp under Mears's mentorship.

It was 1949 and Graham was struggling with intense intellectual doubts regarding the authority and inspiration of the Bible, spurred by his friend Charles Templeton. Mears invited Graham to speak at Forest Home. During that week, her unwavering confidence in Scripture and her deep theological grounding provided the environment Graham needed to process his struggle.



It was during this retreat that Graham famously went for a walk in the woods, laid his Bible on a tree stump, and prayed, "**Father, I am going to accept this as Thy Word - by faith!**"

Just weeks after this breakthrough at Mears' conference, Graham began the 1949 Los Angeles Crusade. Mears encouraged her large college class and Hollywood contacts to attend. The crusade, originally scheduled for three weeks, lasted eight and propelled Graham into national prominence and, well, you know the rest of the story of his life and ministry.



It is an inspiring story, but I wonder about the original landowner who lost \$320,000 (equivalent to **\$7,338,000** in today's purchasing power) because of a flash flood! He could never have foreseen the impact his disaster would have on eternity.

The lesson for us, when facing problems which make absolutely no sense to us is this: **trust God, even in the worst tragedies; He knows what He is doing, regardless of the losses involved.**





## Post-VBS/Kids' Ministry Follow-Up: From "See You Later" to "Welcome Home"

Dr. Kim Jessie

The decorations are down and the glitter is finally vacuumed up, but the most important part of Vacation Bible School is just beginning. For many new families, VBS was their first glimpse into your church. How you bridge the gap between that final Friday and the following Sunday determines whether VBS was a one-week event or the start of a lifelong journey.

Here are three strategies to turn guests into family:

### 1. The "48-Hour" Rule

Speed is key. Within 48 hours, send a personalized text or email to new families. Mention something specific—like how much their child enjoyed the games or a funny moment of the week. This shows you didn't just see a registration number; you saw their child(ren).



### 2. The "VBS Celebration" Sunday

Invite families back for a specific "VBS Celebration" service the Sunday immediately following the program. Play the theme songs, show a highlight video, and have the kids come on stage. Seeing their child(ren) shine in a familiar environment lowers the

"intimidation barrier" of returning to church or attending a new church service.

### 3. Provide a "What's Next" Map

Don't let them wonder where they fit in. Provide a clear, simple invitation to your next big family event—whether it's a Kids' trip to the Aquarium, Promotion Sunday, a back-to-school bash, or a new small group for parents.



Remember, the goal isn't just to grow your numbers; it's to shepherd the hearts God brought to your doorstep. A warm, intentional follow-up tells a family: **"You belong here."**



## CHURCHES VBS/CAMP DATES



**Adventure:** SHRMP—Magnified; June 22-26

**Black Creek:** Rainforest Falls; July 13-17; 5:30-8:30pm

**Blackwater:** Emerald Crossing; July 20-24

**Broadway:** Illumination Station; July 13-17; 5:30-8:30pm

**Calvary:** Surprise Party VBS; August 3-7; 6-8pm; K-5th grade

**Cape Charles:** Splash Camp; June 15-August 7; 5-12 yrs.

**Cheriton:** Emerald Crossing; June 21-26; 5-8pm; K-5th grade

**Coastal:** Kidz Blast Week; July 20-24; 5:30pm; K-4th grade; August 5&6; 3-Pre-K; 9-11am

**Cornerstone:** Illumination Station; July 13-17; 9am-12:30pm; 4yr.-5th grade.

**Discover:** Keepers of the Kingdom; June 28-July 1; 6-8pm; 3yr-5th grade.

**Elizabeth River:** SHRMP—Magnified; June 22-26; 2-4pm; Pre-K and Up

**Exmore:** Emerald Crossing; July 12-16; 5:45-8:15pm; 4yr-5th grade.

**First Chinese:** True North; July 9-11; 9am-4pm; 5-11yrs.

**Great Bridge Baptist Church:** Illumination Station; July 6-10; 9am-12:30pm; K-5th grade; VBX; 6th-8th grade

**Great Bridge Community:** ME3; July 20-24; 9am-4pm; 5-13yrs.

**Holland:** Rainforest Falls; July 13-17; PreK-5th grade

**Indian River:** SHRMP—Magnified; June 20-27

**King's Grant:** Illumination Station; June 22-26; 9am-12pm

**London Bridge:** Rainforest Falls; June 22-26; 9am-12pm; 4yr-5th grade

**Newsong Fellowship:** August 3-7; 6-8:30pm; 4yr-6th grade

**Open House Community:** Reach Camp; July 27-31; 9am-3pm; 1st-5th grade

**Sedley:** Emerald Crossing; June 29-July 3; K5-6th grade

**Shadowlawn:** Illumination Station; August 10-14; 6-8:15pm; PreK-6th grade

**St. John's :** Summer Sports Camp; July 7-11; 5:45-8:15pm; 3yrs-5th grade

**Thalia Lynn:** Illumination Station; June 22-26; 9:30am-12:30pm; K-6th grade

Kids Music Camp; Living Inside Out in an Upside Down World; July 27-31; 9am-3pm; completed 1st-6th grade; \$45

Kids CentriKids Camp; Skycroft, MD; July 13-17;

Completed 2nd-6th grade; \$275

Youth Fuge Camp-Ridgecrest, NC; July 3-7; 7th-12th grade; \$250





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### **Baby Boutique**

Well, we craved it and now we have it! WARM (hot??) weather is upon us! But, the good news is Baby Boutique has some COOL items just waiting to be scooped up! We just need to get the word out there. If you know of anyone in your church or in your community who could use some help, we are here and ready, willing and able to help. It's as simple as going to [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org) and filling out a Baby Boutique application that's found under the Resource tab. Once submitted they will be contacted for an appointment. We offer a "One Time Only" opportunity to get free items for their children age 2 and under. Our clothing goes up to a size 2 and we also have various other items suitable for children under age 2. Our inventory varies depending on our donations.

Speaking of donations, a big shoutout to all who have donated! We have had churches and individuals recently bless us with some awesome items! We are forever grateful because donations keep us up and running. If you have donations, feel free to contact me about what we do or do not accept. Thank you!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director  
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