

Highlands Senior Class 2021



Reese Alexander

Reese Alexander was baptized as an infant in 2003 by her late grandfather the Rev. Gerry Hearin in Highlands' chancel, where she proudly performed in the Christmas pageant throughout childhood – once in spite of an appendectomy. She is graduating from The Altamont School where her extracurricular passions include piano, accordion, voice, musical theatre, and where she focused on literature and creative writing which she will continue to pursue this Fall in Barnard College at Columbia University. Reese is the youngest daughter of Steve and Lisa, sister to Blaire, and the youngest grandchild of a very proud grandmother, June Hearin, as well as the late Charles and Nell Alexander.



Emma Halliday

Emma Halliday will graduate with honors from Helena High School, where she is a member of the Chamber Choir, the Women's A Capella Choir, and the Math Club. She was chosen for the Alabama Music Educators Association All-State Choir for six consecutive years and participated in the University of Montevallo Young Musicians' Camp each summer. Emma has completed an Advanced Placement visual art portfolio that includes work in a variety of media. Many of these pieces will be featured at the Arts on Main event in Columbiana, AL. She will attend the University of Montevallo in the fall on an academic scholarship, where she plans to major in Art with a minor in Math.



Virginia Hunt

Virginia Day Hunt is the daughter of Ann and David Hunt. She is graduating from Indian Springs School in late May. Virginia is a lifelong member of Highlands UMC. She was baptized here, attended the Child Development Center as an infant, and was confirmed at Highlands. Virginia was dubbed the “most outgoing Hunt” by Reggie several years ago, and she proudly maintains that status. Virginia is looking forward to attending Whitman College located in Walla Walla, Washington. She plans to major in biology and hopes to become a large animal vet one day. Virginia also will be playing soccer at Whitman.



Sam Jones

Samuel Allen Jones is the son of Danny and Michelle Jones. He will graduate from Homewood High School in May. Sam is planning to attend Auburn University in the fall where he was awarded the Spirit of Auburn Presidential Scholarship. During high school, Sam has enjoyed playing soccer with the Homewood Soccer Club and has enjoyed being a faithful member of Highland's cooperative youth group. Sam began his journey at Highlands as an infant where he was welcomed into the love of this church family from day one.



Victoria Thompson

Victoria Rose Thompson is an Honor Graduate from Homewood High School. At HHS, Victoria has been an All-State Cross Country runner and member of the varsity cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field teams. She has served as a Patriot Pride student ambassador, played saxophone in the marching band, and been a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and Latin Club. A life-long member of Highlands, Victoria has attended the Child Development Center, served as an acolyte, been active in the youth group, represented the youth on the Church Council, attended and volunteered at VBS, and participated in youth mission trips and Discovery weekends. She loves reading, running, baking, and spending time with her friends. Victoria will attend the University of Alabama Honors College in the fall and has been awarded a UA Presidential Scholarship and UA National Alumni Association scholarships.



Lillie Corinne Welch

Lillie Corinne Welch is graduating from Mountain Brook High School in May. Lillie Corinne has been an active member of Highlands' youth group, helping to plan and lead Discovery weekends, serving as an acolyte in worship, and volunteering with Vacation Bible School. This August, she will begin her collegiate studies at the UAB Honors College with early acceptance into the Honors Nursing Program on a full scholarship. She is blessed with the opportunity to stay close to her church, family, and friends.



Hannah Wheeler

Hannah Lillian Wheeler is the daughter of Amy Cottrill and Ken Wheeler. Hannah will graduate from Homewood High School in May. During her years at Highlands, Hannah has been involved as an acolyte, a volunteer during Vacation Bible School, and in Sunday School, youth group, and worship. In August, Hannah begins her collegiate studies at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.



Lydia Wheeler

Lydia Christine Wheeler is the daughter of Amy Cottrill and Ken Wheeler. Lydia graduates from Homewood High School in May. As a member of Highlands, Lydia has especially enjoyed being an acolyte, volunteering with Vacation Bible School, and being part of Sunday School, youth group, and worship. In the fall, Lydia is enrolling at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.