

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 62

April 2006

No. 4

From the Pastor...

In Brennan Manning's book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, we are given some amazing facts about our world and universe. Here are some: (1) If the moon were closer to us than it is, the tides might be so enormous that all continents would be submerged in water. (2) If the crust of the earth had been a few feet thicker, there would be no oxygen. (3) Had the oceans been a few feet deeper, carbon dioxide and oxygen would have been absorbed and no vegetable life would exist. (4) The earth's weight has been estimated at six sextillion tons (that's a six with 21 zeros). Yet it is perfectly balanced and turns easily on its axis. It rotates daily at the rate of more than a thousand miles per hour – 25,000 miles each day, nine million miles a year. (5) The earth revolves in its own orbit around the sun, making the elliptical circuit of about six hundred million miles each year – which means we are traveling through space at 19 miles per second or about 68,000 miles per hour. (6) The sun is only one minor star among the 100 billion burning orbs that comprise our Milky Way galaxy. If you were to hold out a dime at arm's length while gazing at the night sky, the coin would block out 15 million stars from your view, if your eyes could see with that power.

The psalmist wrote: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth; You who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained; what is man that You should take thought of him, or the children of man that You should care for them?" (Ps. 8: 1, 3, 4)

The psalmist wrote what we feel when confronted with the vastness and order of the universe. Yet also in the smallest things we find the depth of God's love and the beauty of His creative powers: from the kindness of friends to the delicacy of camellias to the colors of azaleas to the aroma of fresh bread, *all*, are evidences of God's grace. *It's everywhere*. In the grin on a boy's face to the coy smile of a four-year old girl when she knows she has her Papa wrapped around her finger. It's all grace. All of it. Such beauty and love were *not* necessary. It's there only because of God's grace.

And so is Jesus.

Think on such wonders, and I believe you'll be drawn to embrace something of the glory of this holy season.

Yours in Him,
Norman



Molly's Musings

Family Traditions

Hustle, bustle, run, run, run. Hustle, bustle, run, run, run. Have you ever heard of a sentence made up of all verbs? Sometimes I feel this is the story of our lives – all verbs and nothing else! There's no doubt many of us live busy lives at a frantic pace. Maybe it's just me, but I feel like I'm always scooping up Hannah and rushing off to the next destination. Somewhere in the midst of my crazy life, my little baby turned into a little girl who can walk and talk and understand most of what we say to her. When I stop long enough to think about it, I get a sinking feeling I am missing something. I know she'll be off to college before I know it, and if I don't make a concerted effort to slow down, I *will* miss the opportunity to mold and shape her for Christ.

Then an idea sprang forth from a conversation I had with Amy Walton. For some reason we began talking about family traditions, and she shared with me some of the special things her family used to do when she was a girl. In her family, no one was allowed to drink Coke during the week. On Sunday evening, however, the ban was lifted and everyone had popcorn and Coke. It was a weekly event everyone looked forward to and relished as a family.

After that discussion, I began to think about what traditions I wanted to begin in my family. Why? I feel traditions bring people together. They foster the making of fond memories. If they are a weekly or daily tradition, they bring about routine and order and can give everyone something to look forward to. Traditions can be the glue that adheres the family together against all the forces of our culture that try to pull it apart. Traditions offer opportunities to build relationships. Perhaps traditions force us to slow down and carve out time for one another.

After all, Christ understood the importance of traditions. During His ministry to the disciples, He taught them the importance of eating together, praying together, and meeting together – not just every now and then but on a regular basis. He established one of the greatest traditions of all time in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper leaving the disciples with the command, "Do this in remembrance of me."

So here's my idea. I have decided to put together a collection of family traditions, and I'm asking you to submit your family's special customs. Your submission can be something as simple as, "I pray with my children every morning before they walk out the front door to go to school" to "Every night each person shares two things about their day as we eat dinner together." Once all the traditions are culled, I want to put them into a book that could be given to the parents when a baby is baptized. In doing so, new parents will have a resource to help them begin their own family traditions.

If you wish to submit a tradition, please use the following form and turn it in to my box. Thank you for your participation!

FAMILY TRADITION

Your name: _____

Family Tradition: _____

(use additional page if necessary)

Music Notes

Randy Sheets

Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Requiem (1888) by Gabriel Fauré

As part of our Maundy Thursday Communion service, the Chancel Choir will present *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. The instrumental forces include organ (Val Early), harp (Andra Bohnet), and solo violin (Wendy Klopfenstein). Susan Schlichting and Forrest Wilson are the vocal soloists.

The music of this Requiem is translucent and serene. Fauré, who was a church musician, teacher, and composer in France, declared the work to be “as gentle as myself.” There is no trumpet of doom on the Day of Judgement---Charles Koechlin argued that “Fauré rejected the ‘cruel anthropomorphism of divine justice modeled on the sanctimonious prudery of human courts,’ stressing instead tenderness, pardon, and hope.” (from program notes to the recording on Telarc CD-80135).

It is fitting to sing this Requiem during Holy Week, when we remember the Passion of Christ. We can imagine ourselves praying for eternal rest and perpetual light to shine upon Christ as He was laid in the tomb, and we remember our own mortality, singing “unto You all flesh shall come.”

I pray that you will come to this worship service with ears, mind, and spirit open to receive the radiant serenity of this music, just as you open yourselves to receive God’s grace in Holy Communion.

TECH HELP FOR “BY THE SEA”

Tech help is needed for our production of the intergenerational musical “By the Sea,” which we will present in our May 14 worship services. If you are willing to help, please complete and return the following form, or contact Randy Sheets at the church.

Name _____ Email _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

I am willing to help with: (check all that apply)

Costumes (design, fitting, gathering, sewing, etc.)

Set construction / painting

Gathering props

Stage crew/managing (moving sets, furniture, positioning props, etc.)

Help shepherd Carol Choir members (young children) during final rehearsals and worship

Return form to the church or contact Randy Sheets (342-1550 ext 15. rsheets@springhillpresbyterian.org)

This Sacred Act We Call Worship

The worship in which we participate on Sunday mornings is the central activity of the faith community at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Since it is a community activity worship brings together people from a variety of traditions and life experiences. This is both a blessing and an opportunity to learn how to encourage one another in our faith development through this central uniting aspect of our community.

Here are some aspects of a healthy worship atmosphere we seek to nurture at Spring Hill.

1. *Worship occurs in a space of reserved reverence.* We model our worship upon that awesome silence in heaven mentioned in Revelation when saints and the heavenly host worship God. We now ring bells before the service begins and this is the signal that a time of prayerful silence should replace fellowship. Please observe this silence in order to help introduce yourself and enable others to move from the busyness of the world to the reverent hush of worship. Also, there are specific times when ushers will ask you to remain in the hallway or front of the church.
2. *Worship occurs in the presence of Almighty God.* As a reformed church we maintain that worship is an act whereby we join with all the heavenly host in the worship of the enthroned Lord of the Universe. Therefore, we observe traditional customs of respect *such as* the removal of hats for gentlemen, a dress code that reflects respect, and silencing of cell phones and pagers for people who require them to be on.
3. *Worship is an activity focused on the Word of God.* Reformed worship revolves around the centrality of Scripture. All actions in worship lead to and flow from the Word read and proclaimed. There is a special reverence that we have for the Word of God, which is why if able we stand at the introduction of the Beadle, and maintain respectful quiet during the reading and preaching of the Word.
4. *Worship is an act of the community.* In the reformed tradition worship is an expression of the community and each individual contributes to it. Each of us is accountable for helping those around us worship free from the distractions that our extra movement and sound produce. While we recognize that emergencies will arise, please plan your preparation for worship so that you can remain in the worship space for the full service. If an emergency arises for you then please exit from the doors at the steeple exit, *not the pulpit or lectern exit.* Also, if you are worshipping as a family please make sure that children's needs are tended to before worship begins.

Thank you for your attention to this article as we try to provide a meaningful worship experience for everyone who worships at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. If you would like to learn more about worship in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please read the Directory for Worship in the Book of Order. It is available online at www.pcusa.org.

Easter is a celebration of the great leap of faith, the ultimate act of defiance against despair. No matter what this great unknown holds for us we can trust that it will be all right -- Jesus is in it.

And even though our minds cannot yet grasp the truth about resurrection and eternity, we can entrust ourselves to what one hymn writer described as "the silence of eternity, interpreted by love." (Dear Father, Lord of humankind - John G. Whittier)

--Ann Siddall
Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director working
Within the life of the Uniting Church.
She lives in South Australia

Holy Week

Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

Palm Sunday (April 9: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)

Maundy Thursday (April 13: 7:00 p.m.) *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré - Service of Holy Communion

Good Friday (April 14: 12 Noon)

Easter Sunday (April 16: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.) The Resurrection of Our Lord



**ONE
GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing gives us the opportunity to share God's gift with people in need. We ask your prayers for this annual offering which will take place on Palm Sunday and Easter. These gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, self-development, and the Presbyterian Hunter Program. Special envelopes will be in the pews.

Nominations for Church Officers

Nominations for Church Officers should be given to the following members of the Nominating Committee: Edith Abrams, Nancy Adams, Pat Daugherty, Pat Edington (Chair), Mona Ferguson, Joe Hastings, Lexie Jones, Bill Oppenheimer, and Ben Rowe.

Minimum requirements are (1) attendance at regular Sunday service of at least 50% and (2) having made a financial pledge toward the church budget, no matter how large or small.

Hey Kids,



want to meet some interesting new people while traveling to new places this summer? You can...at SHPC with *Passport Through the Bible* (a drama-based curriculum). *Building Blocks* and *Journeys of Faith* will begin this exciting new program beginning in May and lasting through August. Interested in being a shepherd for a couple of Sundays? Contact Marty O'Gwynn (ages 2-5) or Jodi Ivey (K - 5th grades) for more information.

The minister was greeting his congregation after the service when a woman told him, "I didn't enjoy your sermon one bit: it made me think too much."

Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right make us easy to live with.

-- Peter Marshall
Former Chaplain to the US Senate

Current Issues Sunday School Class Schedule

Another interesting lineup of programs is scheduled for our class in April. Please join us in the Terry Room at 9:30 a.m. for the following:

April 2 – Sam Jones, Mayor of Mobile

April 9 – Robert Edington (subject TBA)

April 16 – Easter Program, coordinated by Joan Crawford and Billy McLean

April 23 – Habitat for Humanity Brenda Carson-Lawless, Speaker

April 30 – U. S. Coast Guard, Katrina Rescue Report

Service committee

There was a good turnout for the BLOOD DRIVE on March 12. We had 23 pints given, and we thank all who gave and all who volunteered for this wonderful cause.

PENELOPE HOUSE honored our church at their annual meeting on March 9 with an award for Outstanding Support. We are one of two churches in the community that consistently give a monthly sum of money that they can count on. We also have a barrel outside the office for donations of women's and children's clothing and household items that are taken to their thrift shop, Penelope's Closet, at the Loop. Many thanks for your continued support.

BAY AREA FOOD BANK

The Bay Area Food Bank is always in need of food. This is "peanut butter" month and the Service Committee is asking for donations of this staple to be put in one of their barrels.

Camp Pinetreat – 2006

June 11-23: Night Owl (Rising 7th - 9th graders)

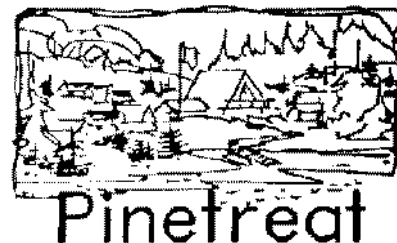
July 6-8: Footsteps (Rising 1st - 3rd graders)

July 9-14: Journey 1 (Rising 3rd - 6th graders)

July 16-21: Journey 2 (Rising 3rd - 6th graders)

July 23-28: *La Frontera (Rising 4th - 8th graders)

*Means "a place of transition"



Camp Pinetreat registration forms are available on the
Presbytery of South Alabama's web site: www.presbyteryofsouthala.org



Daylight Savings Time begins April 2nd – Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour on Saturday, April 1 before going to bed.

Presbyterian Women's News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Circles will meet on Wednesday, April 12 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Hilda Gewin (4702 Old Shell Road)
- #2 at 9:15 a.m. at 9:00 a.m. in David's Diner and then go to the Mulherin Home (nursery provided)
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Make plans and reservations for the Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference at Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL, July 25-28.

BIBLE TO ANOTHER BEAT

Music at the recent conference of APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) was provided by the two Zehnder brothers under the Monster Palm Entertainment label.

The beat was modern, but the words were old. They sang about a sycamore tree and a little man who wanted to see Jesus; LOVE NEVER ENDS put music to I Corinthians Chapter 13.

I came home with two of their CDs and hope others will find them as compelling as I did. Choosing your favorite Bible verse and putting it to music might be a summer project for budding performers.

If understanding Presbyterianism is troubling you, try checking out the new *The Presbyterian Handbook*. This was a best seller at the same conference. There is information and humor on every page. Test your knowledge and sense of humor at the same time. Highly recommended!!

First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday Lunch will be April 6 at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please call the church office to make reservations or use the tear off in the bulletin.

Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all children! Children's Services and Activities will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. with lunch and activities. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be in the back hall in the main building or call the church office.

Why did Jesus die?

They crucified Him with the criminals. Which is more amazing, to find Jesus in such bad company? Jesus died precisely for these two criminals who were crucified on his right and left and went to their death with him. He did not die for the sake of a good world, he died for the sake of an evil world.

Karl Barth, "Deliverance to the Captives"
Christianity Today, March 2004

Committees and Chairs: 2006

Committees

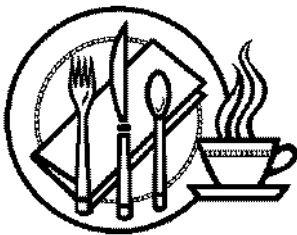
Personnel
Global Missions
Plant Services
Worship/Ushers
Christian Education
Witness
Member Involvement
Programming
Service
Hospitality
Children's Services & Activities
Senior Outreach
Educational Outreach
Youth
Religious Arts
Budget & Finance
Stewardship
Furnishings

Chairs

Dick Baymiller
Tod Heyman
Robert Weaver
Molly Wagner, Bruce Maynard
David Ayers
Kendall Dexter
Nancy Adams & Marcia Autterson
Doug Baymiller
Sally Cobb and Linda Fletcher
Leslie Sweeney
Becky Lord
Lila Dexter & Bron Dixon
Vera Lynn Sheets & Christopher Jones
Sidney Weinacker
Harvie Jordan
Joe Hastings
Gordon Mowry
Rita Langus

Katrina Cooks Update!

Did you know we have served over 1100 dinners to relief workers since September? Not to mention countless breakfasts and lunches! Our church's commitment to house and feed these workers has been a labor of love. So many of you have opened pantries and pocketbooks to help, and when we have needed the hands-on labor, you have always been willing to be there, too.



Now we need to broaden our cook and worker base. Beginning in mid-April, you will all have an opportunity to participate as we provide a special sign-up spot in the Sanctuary area. As much as I would like to speak to you all personally, this will allow you to pick the evening and portion of the meal you would like to provide. By doing this we will all share in the opportunity to feed our guests. What a wonderful job they are doing as they go to the hard-hit areas to help.

I invite any suggestions from you all as we continue to provide this service of love in God's name.

Pat Stoll

I believe that the spirit of prayer is like a lamp which will lose nothing of its own brightness by setting other lamps aflame.

-- *Branwell Booth*



We rejoice with Melissa Bowden and Jim Root in their marriage on March 18.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Donna Smith in the death of her mother, Grace Jenkins, on February 26 in Wisconsin; with the family of Mary Kathryn Bryars in her death on March 4; with Gordon Mowry in the death of his mother, Margaret Mowry, on March 4, in Memphis; and with Joan Crawford in the death of her mother, Eunice Davis, on March 16.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Betty Wolfe
Margaret Mowry
Burt Taylor
Fay Otts
Mary Kathryn Bryars
Donald Susi
Rockne Lee

From the following:

Robert and Betty Graham
Sandra Kendall
Alex and Molly Lankford
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Iturbe
Pat and Barbara Sims
Christopher and Sandra Lee
Mrs. Donald J. Stewart
W. C. Roedder
S. Dagnal and Melissa Rowe
Virginia Rowe
Julie and David Bagwell
Jack and Mary Horner
Dick and Harriett Pennington
Pat and Royce Ray
Dick Bradley
Billy and Sue McLean
John Gilbert
T. A. Horst, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Chris Semple

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hinton, Sr.
Brenda McGuire
Bruce and Barbara Maynard
Dr. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Saer
James K. Huffstutler, Sr.
Mrs. Raymond McMillan
The Rev. Hoyt Winslett, Jr.
Joe and Carolyn Fritz
H. A. Pharr, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Lutz
James and Marna Murrill
Wilma and Joe Croom
Betty and Carl Booth
Jim and Carolyn Boone
Frank and Phyllis Hull
Hunter and Toni Ingram
Gaylord and Betty Lyon
Bernice Riedeberg
Manson and Marietta Murray
Marie Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Huffstutler Jr.
Ann Ryals
Knight and Michael Upchurch
Becky Cross
Bruce and Barbara Maynard
Jerry and Margaret Armentrout
Martha McCarty
Marion and Malinda McMurphy

Lectioary for the Lord's Day
April 2006



- 2 *5th Sunday in Lent*
 Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or Ps. 119:9-16
 Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
- 9 *Passion/Palm Sunday*
 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
 Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16
 Phil. 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or
 Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
- 16 *Easter/Resurrection of the Lord*
 Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9
 Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or
 Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
 Mark 16:1-8
- 23 *2nd Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133
 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
- 30 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4: 1 John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36b-48

April 2006						
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30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Church Calendar
April 2006

- 3 Committees
- 5 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 6 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 10 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
- 12 Circles
- 13 Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Good Friday Service – Noon
- 15 Easter Egg Hunt – 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 17 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
 Session – 7:00 p.m.



The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost--not even our mortal bodies.
 --Henri Nouwen, "Our Greatest Gift"

I believe in Christianity as I believe in the sun; not only because I see it, but because of it, I see everything else.
 -- C. S. Lewis

Thought for the month

Who do you say Jesus is?

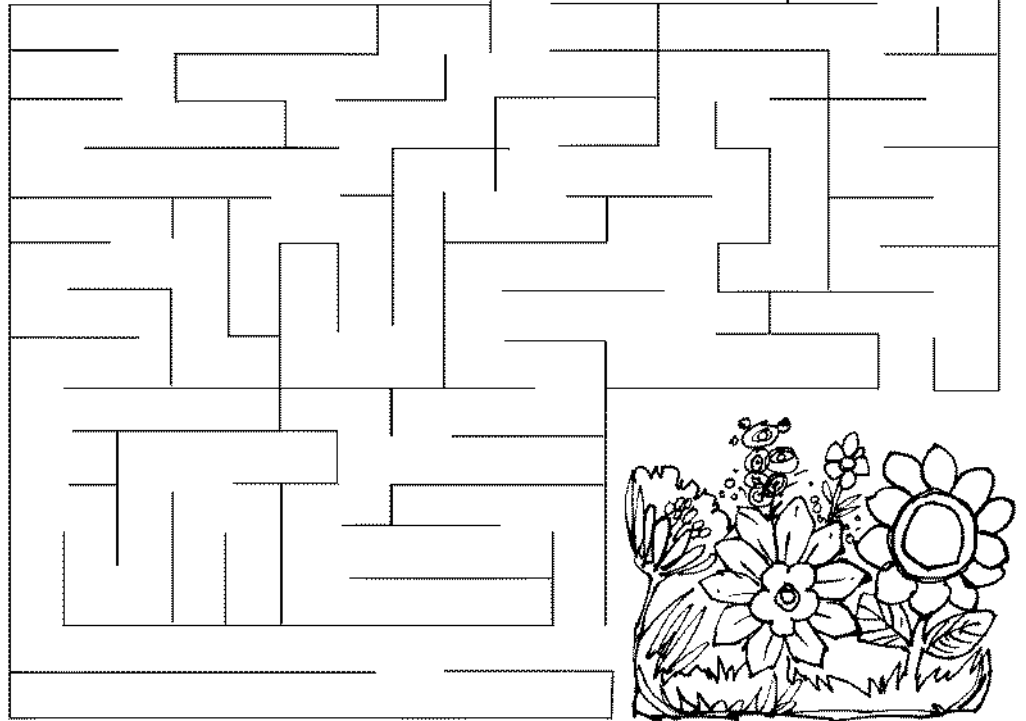
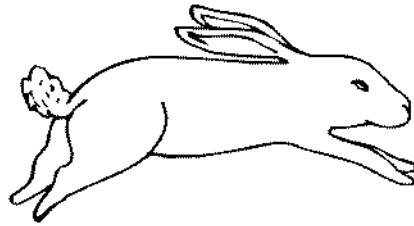
Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and an Easter egg roll with Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.



Just for kids

Find the way

Help the bunny find his way to the flower patch



Celebrate Easter

Fill in the blanks with the words relating to Jesus' death. The letters in the circles spell a word – we celebrate this on Easter Sunday.

1. Jesus died on a _____.
2. Jesus went to _____ after he left this earth.
3. The disciples got tired and went to _____ in the garden.
- 4, 5. _____ was _____ on the cross that he carried.
6. After he died Jesus was placed in a _____, another word for a tomb.
7. The last week of Jesus' life was spent in or near the city of _____.
8. The soldiers that guarded the cross were called _____.
9. Jesus asked his disciples to _____ and pray when he went to the garden.
10. Jesus' _____ to heaven took place after his resurrection.
11. Jesus shed his _____ for our sins.
12. Jesus was given vinegar to _____ when he was on the cross.

