

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 63

April 2007

No. 4

From the Pastor...

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Mark Mueller as our new associate pastor. He comes to us from Swift Presbyterian Church where he has served since 1999 as solo pastor.

A native of Minnesota, Mark has a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Arizona, a Master of Divinity from Louisville Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary where he was a Thompson Scholar.

Mark is married to Toby Mueller who previously served as the associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Foley; she's currently the interim pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church. They have two daughters, Lauren, a senior at Converse College, and Ashley, a senior at Foley High School.

When Mark went to Swift Presbyterian there were 55 active members; today there are 350; the budget has tripled and the church's debt has been retired. Before going to Swift, Mark was the associate pastor at Spanish Fort Presbyterian.

What people throughout the presbytery have noted is Mark's mature faith and passion for ministry, particularly in the areas of evangelism, pastoral care, and teaching. He's a strong administrator, has a big heart and a wonderful way with people of all ages. Mark was an elementary school principal before entering seminary and has retained a keen interest in youth.

We are very excited about Mark's coming to Spring Hill and look forward to welcoming him to the pulpit on April 1.

Yours in Christ,
Norman

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, (April 1: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)

Maundy Thursday (April 5: Noon
Service of Holy Communion)

Good Friday (April 6: 7:00 p.m.)

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

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 the annual offering which will take place on Palm Sunday and Easter. These gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, self-development, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Special envelopes will be in the pews.

Molly's Musings
"A Life of Love"

**Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1-2**

What does it mean to live a life of love? This is a question I asked the youth of our presbytery this past weekend at their spring retreat. Jesus gives us a wonderful answer in John 13, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

So what does that look like? How do we live out that commandment in everyday life? I think the first step to living a life of love involves a perspective change on people. As Christians, we must see the world as made up of two types of people: believers and nonbelievers. We must view the believers as our brothers and sisters in Christ and therefore the people we will spend eternity with dancing before the throne. Viewing your fellow Christians in such a light should be the first step in living a life of love. Your actions towards your brothers and sisters in Christ should flow out this perspective. If you view them as the people you will be in community with forever then you will also understand there is no room for unforgiveness, strife and discord. You will make every effort to make peace and unity a priority. You will choose not to be offended when otherwise you might be. You will accept one another, really listen to one another, and invest in one another. If we are to spend eternity together, we might as well begin building the kingdom here and now – and in doing so the watching world will know we are His!

We must also view unbelievers as people who desperately need to know Jesus Christ and our encounters with them as opportunities to witness to them about the love of the Savior.

From the plumber who comes into your home to fix your leaky toilet to the person who parks her grocery cart in the middle of the aisle in Wal-Mart, we have the opportunity to demonstrate through our actions the attributes of Christ.

I want the painter who disconnected the discharge hose to my washer and allowed 60 gallons of water to run through our brand new addition to see the patience and forgiveness of Christ in me. I want the photo shop cashier at Walgreens to see the kindness and compassion of Christ in me. I want my friends who are unbelievers to notice there is something different about me and my outlook on life. I want my life to reflect Christ so that all who cross my path know something about Him because of our exchange.

How would your life change if you viewed the world as made up of two types of people? I know that if I can remember to view His children in this light, I will come closer to obeying Jesus' commandment to live a life of love.

Yours in Christ,
Molly

Living Waters offering

The total received from the Living Waters of the World offering was \$1,928.00.

Blood Drive

It was a great Blood Drive on Sunday March 11. 33 people came to the drive and 25 units of blood were collected. Many thanks to the donors and volunteers that helped with the drive.

Good Friday, with *St. John Passion*
Music Notes
By Randy Sheets

It has been customary in Christian liturgical history for Holy Week services to include the Gospel accounts of Jesus's last week. At some times and in some traditions, the Palm Sunday liturgy includes John's account and Good Friday's liturgy includes Matthew's account (in some traditions, the assignment is reversed.) Christ's Seven Last Words are combined from all four Gospel accounts. Through the centuries, the accounts have been presented in various ways--in simple reading, in chanted versions with several different singers representing the various characters, or in more or less elaborate choral settings. J. S. Bach's famous settings of the Matthew and John accounts are elaborate masterpieces in which the entire accounts are sung by soloists and choirs. The congregation joined to sing hymns strategically positioned in the account to assist in reflecting on the importance of the story for each person's life.

On this Good Friday, our congregation will be a part of the Christian tradition of hearing the Passion account according to John. Readers will present the Gospel story of Jesus's arrest, trial, and crucifixion, with different persons representing the different characters in the action. Our Chancel Choir will sing responses that reflect upon the action. For example, Peter's denial of Jesus is followed by a musical setting of a text by living writer David W. Romig, "When We are Tempted to Deny Your Son". One of my favorite texts is by the living hymn writer Fred Pratt Green; it helps us to reflect upon the torture of Christ by the soldiers. Its powerful language, in particular, the surprising rhymes, helps us to look at the event with new eyes and spirits. In the line "you will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame," the warmth of the "oh" sounds in "robe" and "throw" as opposed to the relative brightness and implied ugliness of the words "naked shame" contrast Jesus's warm love with our sinful nature. This poem deserves quoting in full.

To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
Set you with taunts along the road from which no one returns.
They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown;
That thorns would flow'r upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.

In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak,
Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They could not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame,
You will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.

A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
And acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.

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The composer of the musical setting, John Ferguson, faculty member at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, says "the passion account of the gospel writer John depicts Jesus' death as his glorification and the cross as the victorious sign of the world's redemption." I invite you to join us at 7 pm on Good Friday to reflect upon and celebrate the triumph of the cross.

The Stewardship Committee

The following is from the PCUSA web site. It was printed in the newsletter a few years ago by Rick True. I thought I would again share it with you.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and in community. It is more than giving money to the church. Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us. Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life. Stewardship is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how our choices affect us and others, of how we can be good caretakers of the created world, and of how we can best serve God as disciples of Christ."

Our receipt of pledged offerings is currently on track with where we should be at this time of year.

Respectfully,
R. Gordon Mowry

Stephen Ministry

How does Stephen Ministry Work?

When someone requests a Stephen Minister, Margaret Miller, our Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator, will meet with that person, explain what Stephen Ministry is, and help determine whether Stephen Ministry is the kind of care that person needs. Our Referrals Coordinator then matches that person with one of our available Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Minister will then call that person and begin meeting with him or her for around an hour each week as long as the need is there. Everything a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept confidential. The Stephen Minister doesn't try to solve problems; rather, he or she listens, cares, prays, and helps the care receiver find his or her path to healing and wholeness. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call Margaret Miller, 344-3937.

Service Committee

For the 10th straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide to help raise funds during March and April. In the past nine years, this effort has raised \$620 million nationwide.

The Service Center takes part in this challenge, and any donation of cash, checks or food items (that can be valued at \$1.00 per pound) as well as pledges that are received during March or April will count toward this effort to relieve hunger here in Mobile. The participating organizations receive a percentage of the million according to the amount each receives.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile challenge, please send donations to the Service Center of Catholic Social Services, 555 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL 36602.

See additional Service Committee news on page 7.

Editors' note and apology

It has been brought to the attention of the editors that a joke printed in a previous issue of this newsletter was offensive to one of our readers. The jokes, cartoons, graphics and inspirational fillers are chosen by the editors and are taken, for the most part, from clip sheets obtained from a religious clip sheet supplier for inclusion in church newsletters. The editors regret that an item in the newsletter was offensive and sincerely apologize for including it. In order to avoid this in the future, the newsletter will include only articles and announcements supplied by the church. Contact information for the editors is on Page 9.

Presbyterian Women's News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, April 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, April 11 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Hilda Gewin (4702 Old Shell Road)

#2 will not meet in April. The Circle met twice in March (regular meeting and the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Mulherin Home), We will meet next on May 6 at the Birthday dinner.

#3 at 9:30 in the Parlor

#4 at 7:00 in the Parlor

Make plans and reservations for the Alabama/Mississippi Women's conference at Belhaven College, Jackson, MS, July 24-27.

Global Missions

SHPC has quite a footprint in Russia, contributing \$2,000 per year to each of the following underlined opportunities:

Donald and Laurie Marsden: Donald is an ordained PC(USA) minister and works with Narnia Educational Center in Moscow, an interdenominational non-profit organization the produces Russian-language resources for children's ministry. He also trains and supports leaders for evangelistic outreach to the Siberian Unreached People Groups. Laurie works with an interdenominational Christian ministry that trains church and other professionals to confront the acute problems of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Alan and Ellen Smith, based in Moscow, are coordinators of the congregational twinning project in Russia and Belarus. They matched our church with our sister church in Kimry, Russia and assisted us in friendship and mission.

Harriet Nihart is the correspondent with Siberian Unreached People. Tod Heyman is the correspondent with the others.

Welcome to our new members:

Bryan and Gloria Reed
1059 Chalet Drive East
Mobile, AL 36608
344-4467

Tommy and Rhen Druhan
217 Berwyn Drive W. #223
Mobile, AL 36608
343-8076

Forrest and Lolita Dickinson
7249 Bay Road
Mobile, AL 36605
443-7533

First Thursday brunch

Join us for 1st Thursday **Brunch** on April 5 at 11:00 a.m. (cost is \$5.00) then plan to attend the Maundy Thursday Communion service at noon, Please call the church office to make reservations or use the tear off in the bulletin.

Library News

Discernment and Biblical Literacy

What do Discernment and Biblical Literacy have in common? They both have been in current articles in news periodicals and denominational publications.

The General Assembly Task Force has reported a need for trust development through churches using new methods for handling controversial topics. Religious illiteracy among congregations is where professing attendees do not know the history and/or culture of various denominations, including their own. This has global implications.

Having attended a workshop during the educational conference regarding the use of better methods of exploring differences I have added the following books to anyone interested in exploring the implication of this condition: Morris & Olsen, *Discerning God's Will Together*; Johnson, *Scripture & Discernment: Decision Making in the Church*; Olsen, *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders*.

In other areas, popular media is questioning the role of the church in teaching Biblical literacy. For better understanding of how and why this has become global for this country see this new addition to the library: Prothers, *Religious Literacy: What every American Needs to Know and Doesn't*.

Worship Committee News

Holy Week is approaching and our church provides numerous opportunities for prayer, reflection and worship. We hope that each of our special worship services provides a way to deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to Jesus Christ and His teachings. Please plan now to attend each of the following services:

Our **Maundy Thursday Service** is scheduled on **April 5, 2007 at 12:00 noon**. Communion will be served by intinction. A nursery will be provided.

A special **Good Friday Service is planned for April 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**, with a nursery provided. The service will include dramatic readings from the Gospel of John and choral accompaniment from the works of composer, John Ferguson.

Easter Sunday worship services on April 8, 2007 are scheduled at the usual times of 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Please encourage your friends and family to join us for worship. Through prayer and worship, we can better appreciate Christ's suffering, death and resurrection and realize the true meaning of this holy season.

Nancy Hofto
Worship Committee

Committees and Chairs: 2007

Committees

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

Chairs

Dick Baymiller
Tod Heyman
Frank Dagley & Robert Weaver, Co-chairs
Nancy Hofto/Bruce Maynard
David Ayers
Amy Pipes
Marcia Auttonson & Amy Walton, Co-chairs
Linda Fletcher & Bill Layfield, Co-chairs
Leslie Sweeney & Jeff Stoll, Co-chairs
Kym Sigler
Deborah Fry, Ann Magee (Co-chairs)
Christopher Jones
Sidney Weinacker
Harvie Jordan
Joe Hastings
Gordon Mowry
Ashley Brown

Attention graduates

Please call the church office if you have a young person in your family who will be graduating from high school, college or graduate school this spring. Our high school graduates will be recognized in worship on Youth Sunday, May 6 (11:00 a.m. service only).

20s, 30s, 40s = *The Young and the Rest of Us*

The 20s, 30s, 40s group is changing our name to *The Young and the Rest of Us*. This name change came about as a suggestion from a few members of our church who used to get together under the same name. The new name will hopefully encourage members older than late 40s to attend our events. Our next outing will take place on **Saturday, April 28, 7:05 at Hank Aaron Stadium**. We'll meet on **Bay Bear Mountain** to watch the game. Bring a blanket and money for food and drinks (outside refreshments not allowed). **Call Meagher Whigham (344-4202) if you would like to take advantage of the childcare provided at the church (\$5/per child) from 6:30-10:00.**

Service Committee

Penelope House: Penelope's Closet, the re-sale shop for Penelope House will be closing temporarily in April. Their present location on Government will be home to a new Super Wal-Mart. They are presently looking for a new location, but until one is found we will not be able to take donations in the barrel outside the office. Thank you so much for all of the donations of clothing and household items that have been made. The staff at the Closet asks for prayers that a new location will be found soon!

Camp Pinetreat Open House

April 29, 2007

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come and meet counselors, tour the facilities, see the new Giant Swing and sign up for summer camp!

Listen! God is Calling Camp Pinetreat 2007

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Discount*</u>
Night Owls 1	June 17-22	\$300	\$275
Night Owls 2	June 24-29	\$300	\$275
Night Owls 3	June 17-29	\$550	\$525
(Rising 7 th – 9 th graders)			
Teen Leadership	July 8-13	\$275	\$250
(Rising 10 th – 11 th graders)			
Journey 1	July 15-20	\$300	\$275
Journey 2	July 24-29	\$300	\$275
(Rising 3 rd -6 th graders)			
Footsteps	July 29-31	\$120	\$95
(Rising 1 st -3 rd graders)			

All sessions begin on **Sunday** afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Campers should be picked up at the end of session on **Friday** between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Footsteps ends on Tuesday between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

*A non-refundable deposit of ½ the camp fee should be sent by May 15 to guarantee your discount rate.

Day Camp Information

Listen! God is Calling

July 9-13, 2007 -- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4, 5, and 6 year olds

Our caring staff will help these young campers explore God's creation and get a taste of camp-life at Pinetreat. Bible Study, singing, swimming, crafts, nature study, hiking and games fill the days of campers at Pinetreat. Day campers should bring a sack lunch or a boxed lunch can be purchased from Pinetreat for \$4.00 each day. Day campers can sign up for just one or two days or all five!

Day Camp Fees are \$20 per day or \$75 for all five days.

Our Prayers and Sympathy

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Tommye Miller in her death on February 26; with Eleanor Rogers in the death of her husband, Harry, on March 9; and with Nancy McCrummen in the death of her father, John Rhodes, on March 19.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following*

Henry Gewin
Tommye Miller
Max McGill
Harry Rogers
Lillian Osterphaler

From the following:

Bill and Ruth coats
George and Greta Massing
Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Oswalt, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Marshall
Physicians of Diagnostic and Medical Clinic
Mr. and Mrs. Keville Larson
Bob and Andrea Wilson
Marion and Richard Overbey
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams Jr.
Dorothy McGehee
Alex and Molly Lankford
Judy McGill
Barry Caldwell
Charles and Linda Langston
Dick and Harriett Pennington
Roy and Gail Kennedy
Dick Bradley
Sam and Judy Strada
Susan Lursen
John and Thelma Bowen

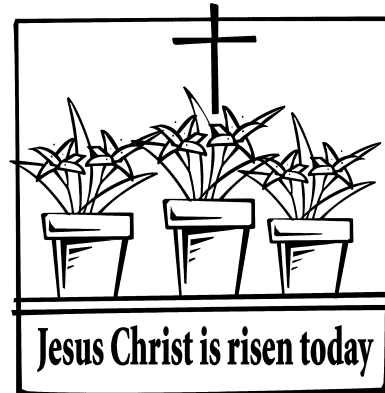
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Charles and Linda Langston
Mobile Register
Lillian Mildred Terrell
Marguerite G. Miller
Kathy Miller
Mike Miller
John and Sue Ward
Jamie and Greg Saad
Liz Hill
Malcolm and Carol Sumrall
Hattie Ogburn
Joe and Vilma Croom
Family of Robert Hunter
John A. Williams
Tim Ferrell
Presbyterian Women Circle #3
Lexie and Mitch Barnett
Ted and Linda Burke
Hewitt and Catherine Smith
Bradford Health Services
Ellen Johnston
Linda Fletcher
Pat and Betty Scheu
Janie Sims
John Gilbert
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Mrs. Thad Partridge
Mary E. Miller
Buck and Joelyne Trehern

Honorarium

An honorarium has been received for Ryan Sheets by Ellen Johnston.

**Lectionary for the
Lord's Day
April 2007**

- 1 *Passion/Palm Sunday*
Luke 19:28-40; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isa. 50:4-9a
Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
- 8 *Easter/Resurrection of the Lord*
Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 65:17-25;
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Luke 24:1-12
- 15 *2nd Sunday of Easter*
Acts 5:27-32; Ps. 118:14-29 or Ps. 150
Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
- 22 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps. 30; Rev. 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
- 29 *4th Sunday if Easter*
Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23; Rev. 7:9-17
John 10:22-30



April 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	30					

Church Calendar

April 2007

- 3 Committees
- 4 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 5 First Thursday Lunch
Maundy Thursday Communion Service – Noon
6. Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.- A Reading of the Passion According to John; musical setting by John Ferguson, presented by the Chancel Choir
- 7 Easter Egg Hunt – 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Easter Sunday/Resurrection
- 10 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Circles
- 16 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 17 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Teacher Training - Noon

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers. Ti Amo and Al E. Cat are on sabbatical.

The editors may be contacted by email:
(Dan) desellers@earthlink.net or
(Laura) handbell@earthlink.net or
through the church office.

Connect the dots



Easter Story Code

Use the code to find how this animal was a part of the Easter story.

♥ = a, ★ = e, ◆ = i, † = o, ❁ = u

J _ s _ s s _ _ d t _ P _ t _ r, "B _ f _ r _ th _ c _ ck cr _ ws
 ★ ❁ ♥ ◆ † ★ ★ ★ † ★ ★ † †

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 ◆ ★ † ❁ ◆ ★ ★ ★ ★ ◆ ★

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 ♥ ★ † ★ † ♥ ★

Answer: Jesus said to Peter, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.