

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

To Emmaus and Beyond

The story of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) appears in the Lectionary for April 6. The story occurs on the afternoon of Easter Sunday. Jesus joins two disciples en route to the village of Emmaus, but they do not recognize who he is.

When the supposed stranger asks what the two are discussing, their jaws drop. “You’ve got to be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard the news! A great prophet named Jesus was crucified. Some of our friends claim to have seen him alive, which would be wonderful, but that doesn’t seem very likely.”

For the remainder of the journey, Jesus explains the scriptures to these two, assuring them that the Messiah is indeed risen, and present.

Arriving at their destination, the disciples urge their companion to stay for dinner and during the meal Jesus takes bread, blesses it, and breaks it. “Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.” (Luke 24:31, NRSV).

Many people take this story literally, seeing in it one of the many appearances of the risen Christ. Others look at it differently, seeing this story as a metaphor for Christ’s presence in the church, then and now.

There are times when we feel helpless and hopeless, perhaps feeling abandoned by God, and unsure of our direction. At those times, in Christian community, we experience the presence of Christ with us, painstakingly helping us understand some truth that will move us beyond our present state.

In his book *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, scholar John Dominic Crossan states: “Emmaus never happened; Emmaus always happens.” Whatever our understanding, the story of Emmaus can remind us that we are not alone. Jesus Christ is with us. Always. To the end of the age.



The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, April 13.

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From the Pastor...

April comes to Spring Hill with a variety of offerings which will challenge and delight us.

On Wednesday, the 16th, Win Hallett, President of the Chamber of Commerce, will speak to our congregation on the changes coming to Mobile. Dinner will be served at 6:00, Win will speak at 6:30. It is important for us to be in attendance because the city's future will bring many opportunities for our church to embrace. A Discernment Committee (usually called Long-Range Planning) is being formed now to discover God's agenda for Spring Hill. The meeting on April 16th is a part of that discernment process.

On Thursday, April 24, Alistair Reid, organist at Coventry Cathedral in England, will give a concert in our sanctuary. Last June, Nancy and Meg and I heard Alistair play and were deeply moved. By God's good providence, Alistair was going to be in the States in April anyway, and he was delighted to accept the invitation to come to Mobile. (When we were in Coventry, he told us he had visited our state, in fact, had been to a football "match" in Tuscaloosa and had yelled "Roll Tide"; he said he found the experience very enjoyable though a little confusing.) I promise, *you will be thrilled to hear Alistair play.*

On April 28 and May 5, Rabbi Steve Silberman will teach a two-part course from the Hebrew Scriptures. Steve was here on November 14th when many of us witnessed the forgiveness of one of Steve's congregants extended to Tom Tarrants. That night, I told Steve that a bond had been established between his congregation and ours, and he fully agreed. For a number of reasons, I admire Steve tremendously and I hope you'll take this opportunity to get to know him and to learn from him. These two dates are on a Monday. The lecture will begin each night at 7:00 p.m.

On the following Monday, May 12, Alice Tennebaum will speak also at 7:00 p.m. She is a survivor of the Holocaust. Her story is one you will not want to miss.

So I ask you to put these dates on your calendar and plan to be with your church family. God's providence is always perfect, and His bringing to Spring Hill these individuals is part of that sacred perfection. May we give Him our thanks.

Yours in Christ,
Norman

Prayer - A ministry for ages 1 through 101+

God calls his house "a house of prayer" (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13 + others). We are admonished in scripture to pray always, continuously, and for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). In obedience to this command, we have been praying for the saints of Spring Hill by name each Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm. We also pray for God's blessing on the worship service just before the service begins (~10:35). We always pray in the Bride's Room.

We pray for each member by name, the sick, the hurting and grieving, the shut-ins, the lost, our pastors, staff, teachers, ministries, officers, committees, missionaries, and special prayer requests. If you have a special prayer need, please fill out the "prayer request" card in the "ritual of friendship" book and put it in the plate.

We are praying for YOU. Come join us to pray for others.

Mark's Remarks

Opportunities to Serve

As you all know, it takes many volunteers to help run the youth program. One crucial area, that is very dear to our kids, is food. Every Sunday night we try to line up a cook or pair of cooks to provide a meal for our youth (roughly 50 people). Some cooks are parents of the youth and some are volunteers throughout our congregation. We are in need of 2 cooks, or pairs of cooks for April 13th and April 20th. If you are interested please see Mark Coats or sign up on the bulletin board outside of Mark Mueller's office. Thanks for your consideration and support of our youth programs.

Compassion Update

Roughly two years ago our youth embarked on a journey of raising \$30,000 for Compassion International to build a *Child Survival Program*. To this date the youth have raised over \$15,000 and are continuing to raise money through fundraising opportunities as well as sacrificing some of their own money. The youth would like to inform you of two easy opportunities for you to get involved. We currently have a coin drive and cell phone recycling program in operation. If you would like to participate in the coin drive, please see Mark Coats for a Compassion coin jar; and if you are interested in the cell phone recycling drive, please bring any old cell phones to Mark.

To the congregation from the witness committee:

We have on average 40 visitors each week to our church. Some are out-of-town visitors. Some are familiar faces that have been visiting for awhile. Others are new every Sunday. It is the desire of our committee that we as a congregation do everything possible to make SHPC a warm place that shines of Christ's love to all. We want to encourage every member to make SHPC a hospitable, loving and gracious community of believers that embraces all who walk through our doors. We hope that you will share the joy and good work happening in the life of our church with all those around you and by inviting people you know to visit. Finally, as it says in Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us". And as Pastor Mark said in his Palm Sunday sermon, "Be Bold!" and watch the contagious warmth and love of Jesus Christ grow!



Get to know your Church Website. www.shpc.us

Did you know that you can access copies of the sermons, bulletin announcements, lists of elder/deacon greeters, newsletters and more on our website? For fun, look at the photo gallery, to see familiar faces in a variety of church activities and programs.

The Young and the Rest of Us

The Young and the Rest of Us are planning a gathering in late April. Please check the bulletin and Member Involvement bulletin board in April for details.

Words from the Worship Committee

Responding to the charge from our pastors to prayerfully consider our worship opportunities, the Worship Committee, with the support of the pastors and the approval of the Session, will be instituting the following practices in our Sunday worship.

- **Offering more frequent celebration of *The Lord's Supper*.** The Communion dates for the rest of 2008 are:

April 13

May 11 (Pentecost)

June 29

August 3

September 7

October 5 (World Communion)

November 30 (First Sunday of Advent)

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- So that the spirit of worship might more fully and smoothly flow throughout the entire service, a slight change in the order of our worship service will begin April 6th. ***The welcome, greeting, announcements, and moments for mission will occur immediately following the Chiming of the Bells and before the opening voluntary***
- To enhance the visibility of the symbol that Christ is our Light, ***the candles will be lit during the opening voluntary***, rather than 15 minutes before the service.

Hoping that these changes enhance your hour of worship on Sundays, the Worship Committee welcomes any comments and suggestions for our committee to consider.

Amy Walton, chair

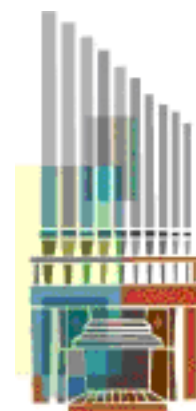
Join the Sound Team

Persons are needed to share responsibilities for recording our 11:00 worship and special services. Training will be provided. For more information, contact Randy Sheets at the church.



Thanks to all who donated blood on March 2. We had 27 people present to donate and we collected 21 units of blood!

*Recital by
The Organist of Coventry Cathedral, England
Alistair Reid*



Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

Committees and Chairs: 2008

Personnel	Michael Chambers
Global Missions	Jim Adams
Plant Services	Pat Scheu, Chair; Robert Weaver, Co-chair
Worship/Ushers	Amy Walton/Bruce Maynard
Christian Education	Judy Stout
Witness	Amy Pipes
Member Involvement	Marcia Auttersen & Nancy Adams, Co-chairs
Service	Bill Layfield, Chair; Chris Pennington, Co-chair
Hospitality	Jeff Stoll
Children's Services & Activities	Kelley Lamberth & Jodi Ivey, Co-chairs
Senior Outreach	Deborah Fry & Ann Magee, Co-chairs
Educational Outreach	Kathy Hamilton & Laura Hastings, Co-chairs
Youth	George Barton
Religious Arts	Harvie Jordan
Budget & Finance	Joe Hastings
Stewardship	Gordon Mowry

Update on the Piano Project



Help the SHPC Piano Fund and **acquire a nice small grand piano**. For a donation of \$400 and approximately \$1200 for refurbishment/moving costs, you can have a refurbished grand which might cost as much as \$6,000 new (the BRAMBACH piano in the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall.)

Also, 2 upright pianos (also needing refurbishment) are available for free or a small donation. If you don't play the piano, your creativity can turn one into an exquisite entertainment center from which your TV screen can arise!! Or the one with horizontally-sliding panels can serve to hide other household amenities in style. (Think Martha Stewart.)

For more information, contact director of music Randy Sheets at the church.

Jesus said: "Don't let this throw you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."

– John 14:1-4, *The Message*

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, April 9 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Hilda Gewin (4272 Bit & Spur Rd. #5)
- #2 at 9:30 a.m. at the Atlanta Bread Company. Please try to come and bring a friend!
Childcare will be provided at 9:15 a.m. in the church nursery.
- #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 on July 22-25 in Birmingham.

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 4 (11:00 a.m. service only).

1ST Thursday Lunch

1st Thursday Lunch will be on April 3 at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for great food, fun, and fellowship. Cost is \$6.00. Please make reservations by April 1.

Camp Pinetreat – Summer 2008

- June 22-27: Night Owls 1 (rising 7th - 9th graders)
- July 6-11: Teen Leadership Camp (rising 10th-11th graders)
- July 9-11: Footsteps (rising 1st-3rd graders)
- July 13-18: Journey 1 (rising 3rd – 6th graders)
- July 20-25: Journey 2 (rising 3rd – 6th graders)
- July 27-Aug. 1: Night Owls 2 (rising 7th – 9th graders)

God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.

– Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*

Presbyterian Men's Fish Fry



All Presbyterian men, high school age and older are invited to the Presbyterian Men's Fish Fry on Friday, April 11 at Camp Pinetreat. Registration is 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Rev. Terry Newland, Synod Executive of the Synod of Living Waters. A flyer with more details is on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Service Committee

This month we will highlight the Family Counseling Center of Mobile. Weezie Taylor is our liaison for this agency.

The Family Counseling Center of Mobile has three core programs:

- 1. The Family Counseling Center (FCC)** offers counseling for individuals, couples, and families dealing with stress, domestic violence, marital, parenting and other life issues. School, family and community involvement are major features of the FCC.
- 2. Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCCS)** provides information and referral, budget counseling, debt and credit management, community education and housing counseling which includes pre and post purchase counseling, rent and mortgage delinquent counseling, home buyer education and reverse mortgage counseling.
- 3 The Outreach and Education Program** includes a helpline (211) the Hope Crisis Center and Youth Violence Prevention.

On the WEB: www.lifelinesmobile.org

The Family Counseling Center is having their 2nd annual silent auction as a fund raiser on Thursday, May 8 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Mobile Country Club. Tickets will be \$25.00 per person. Those interested in attending and/or donating to the silent auction may contact Weezie Taylor at 344-6114.

Library

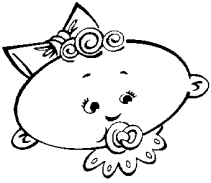
Evangelizing with John and the Acts of the Apostles

Just in case you wanted to know more about the Gospel of John and/or the Book of Acts, the library has some material, in fact quite a lot of material for you. The following is a limited list of interesting resources: Achtemeir and Purvis: *A Passion for the Gospel, confessing Jesus Christ in the 21st Century*; Robert Karris: *Jesus and the Marginalized*; Bruce Larson: *Wind and Fire, Living out the Book of Acts* Audio-visual: DVD #47 John's Gospel; VT *It is Finished: The death and rising of Jesus*, witness to John 17-21 with study guide for group viewing and discussion.

Look for these and more on the Library's display table.

I believe that at the center of the universe there dwells a loving spirit who longs for all that's best in all of creation, a spirit who knows the great potential of each planet as well as each person, and little by little will love us into being more than we ever dreamed possible. That loving spirit would rather die than give up on any one of us.

– Fred Rogers, *Life's Journeys According to Mr. Rogers – Things to Remember along the Way*



We rejoice with John and Elissa Turner in the birth of a daughter, Evelyn April, on February 22.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Nena Smith in the death of her father, Elmer Boyd, on February 26 in Bay St. Louis, MS; with Frankie Jernigan in the death of her husband Hap, on February 27; with Ferd Zundel in the death of his mother, Martha, on February 28; with Nancy Adams in the death of her mother, Ethel Blythe, on March 3 in Tupelo, MS; with Ann Jung in the death of her father, Donald Townsend, on March 6; with Ruby Wharton in the death of her husband, Bill, on March 7; and with Catherine Pierce on the death of her father, Frank Korte on March 15 in Ohio.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Hap Jernigan
Mary Crenshaw
Donald Townsend
Frances Curry
Elmer Boyd
Martha Zundel
Bill Wharton
William Roy Donaldson
Ethel Blythe

From the following:

Liz Hill
Ruth Fitzgerald
Charles and Linda Langston
Edith Cox
Ferd and Sue Zundel
T. A. Horst, Jr.
Ben and Ann Rowe
Betty Minto
Molly Wagner
Dick and Harriett Pennington

Janie Sims
Larry and Nancy Sims
L. Shannon Jung
William and Tracy Shreve
Sidney and Ann Weinacker
Billy and Sue McLean
Randy and Vera Lynn Sheets
Hilary Cabaniss
Florence and Ernest Ladd
Louis and Moren Braswell
The Birthday Group:
Clayton Pennington
Edith Abrams
Edith Cox
Eva Macon
Sylvia Weinard
Sara Coats
Louise Parmley
Judge and Mrs. Ferrill D. McRae
Janet Aiken
Louise Russell
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Ladner
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Taube
Miss Effie Lou Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Torbert

Palmer Whiting
Ann Bedsole
Irene Gwin
Violet Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Williams, Jr.
J. Manson and Marietta Murray
Joe and Vilma Croom
Fred and Susan Helmsing
John and Jane Turrentine
Andrew and Sarah Smith
Employees of Zundel's Jewelry
John Gilbert
John and Phyllis Mostellar
W. Neil and Mary Joe Crosby
Joanna Hall Pepper
Dick Bradley
Robert Hunter
Marie and R. Carol Canfield
Dick and Betty Allen
Ruth and Bill Coats
Bruce and Sylvia Weinard
Janet Clarke
Roy and Gail Kennedy
Samuel and LaDonna Kinsaul
Bernice Riedeburg

I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.

— George Washington Carver

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

April 2008

- 6 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
- 13 *4th Sunday of Easter*
Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25
- 20 *5th Sunday of Easter*
Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16
- 27 *6th Sunday of Easter*
Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

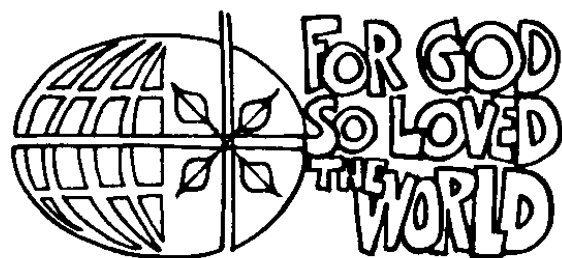
April 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 2008

- 1 Committees
- 2 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 3 First Thursday Lunch 11:45 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 9:15 am.
- 6 Men's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 8 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Circles
- 10 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
- 11 Meals on Wheels
- 13 Communion
Men's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Dinner with Win Hallett, President of Mobile Chamber of Commerce – 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
- 20 Men's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 24 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Concert by Alistair Reid, organist at Coventry Cathedral, England
followed by reception
- 27 Men's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 28 Monday night with our Jewish friends – Rabbi Silberman. Dinner at 6:15 p.m.



You really shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it.
But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.

– Jessica, age 8

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and an
Earth Day filled with mirth with
Ti Amo and Al E. Cat



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*April
Newsletter*