

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 61

August 2005

No. 8

From the Pastor...

What I want for my wife and daughter is what I want for my church family: to be happy in the deepest possible sense. The challenge is finding and then accepting what makes possible such happiness.

Hannah Whitall Smith's classic, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, is one of the most compelling and uplifting examinations that we have on this subject. Born into a strict Quaker home in Pennsylvania in 1832, Hannah Whitall suffered from many spiritual doubts. Her inner struggle continued into her marriage to Robert Smith in 1851, but in 1858 the couple re-committed their lives to Christ and the will of Christ and found in their new life the answers to many of their questions.

Hannah Whitall Smith's writings reflect a very keen intellect. With mind and heart she explored Scriptures and found that God is in *all* things; that nothing happens to us that God does not allow for a reason. She explained that to the extent that we "see" His hand in our circumstances, we find the peace and happiness He offers. To the degree we reject His providence and purposes, we make ourselves miserable.

Beginning **Wednesday, September 14**, we'll have the opportunity as a church family to discover just how God is present in the trials and joys of life. Together we'll study *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*. I strongly encourage you to purchase a copy as soon as possible and make plans to have dinner and then stay for a 40 minute class. If you don't purchase a copy of the book, that's all right too. A printed handout will be available each week.

Apart from the Bible, there are four books which continue to give me the greatest encouragement in my Christian journey: Thomas a Kempis', *The Imitation of Christ*, Oswald Chambers', *My Utmost for His Highest*, Hannah Whitall Smith's *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, and C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. Of the four, Hannah Smith's brings – at least for me – the clearest guide to understanding why and how God is present in our trials. In every chapter of the book I find evidence of God's unconditional love and His reasons for permitting pain to be part of human life.

So, I hope you'll be able to study with us beginning September 14. Together I believe we'll find answers and joy.

Yours in Him,
Norman

Molly's Musings It's NOT about Me

I've heard it said by theologians, from pastors in the pulpit, and even in Hollywood: "The greatest trick the devil ever played was to convince the world he doesn't exist." If I had to come up with a Top Ten List of the Greatest Tricks Satan's Ever Played, I think I could tell you number two. I can just hear David Letterman saying, "Number 2 of the greatest tricks Satan ever played...To convince people that life is ALL about them."

If it is Satan's goal to lure us away from living a life according to God's plan, then no trap is more effective than the creation of a society, culture, and mentality that urge us into thinking we're number one, our story is the most interesting, our problems are worse than everyone else's, and we have the right to be the center of all attention. Nothing clouds God's purpose and plan for our lives more than selfishness and self centeredness. We can't possibly live and walk with Christ if we succumb to the world and remain focused on ourselves alone. Such a mentality is diametrically opposed to life Christ Jesus has called us to live.

So what are we to do? Beth Moore put it best when she said, "Me-centeredness is so powerful and prevalent in our society that if we don't deliberately fight it, we will undoubtedly live it." The question we must ask ourselves then is this: Are we actively struggling against our propensity to be selfish and self centered? I hate to answer this question myself because I know if I'm forced to be honest; the answer is an unequivocal NO! But somewhere deep inside of me, I long to be obedient to Christ, I desire to please God, and I thirst for the fulfillment that can only come from serving Him...so I know I must deal with this unattractive, ungodly part of me. I must learn to recognize these false messages as the work of Satan who would enjoy nothing more than throwing me off course by consuming me with my own selfish pursuits.

The first step in such a process begins with the washing and renewing of my mind with the Word of God. Amazingly, the Bible contains all the instruction I need to turn from my self centeredness to Christ like living. Philippians 2:4 - 7 instructs, "**Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**" Sound like a tall order? Absolutely it is, but God would not ask us to do anything that was impossible for us to achieve. We can be sure that He doesn't set His beloved children up for failure. By the power of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to be obedient to His leading, we **can** live lives beyond ourselves.

Let us all take note of the calling we have received in Holy Scripture. Our lives are NOT about us but about serving Christ in humility. I am praying this very day that God will give each of us the desire to fight our me-centeredness so we can begin to live lives of truth, obedience, and kingdom building for His glory alone.

Yours in Christ,
Molly

Christian Education

The Adult Christian Education Committee will again prepare a course outline describing the upcoming adult learning opportunities at Spring Hill this coming semester. For a second year the G.O.L.D. (Growth Opportunities for a Lifetime of Discipleship) catalogue will be available to reference the fall and winter/spring semesters. The fall catalogue will be distributed August 28 (Sunday prior to Labor Day) and then available throughout the semester on the table in the main hall.

Thanks again to those that participated in the survey asking interest of potential study topics. Twenty-seven responses were received with the following top three categories resulting: 1) How to Study the Bible; 2) Christian Marriage Enrichment; 3) Parenting Young Children. Following this lead we are planning to provide three class offerings throughout the year to cover each topic. The current plan will be to have each offering last approximately three months and will be held on Sunday mornings.

Educational opportunities from previous years will continue strong. Four Sunday morning classes for adults will continue. These are: 1) Bible Study, 2) Bible Discovery, 3) Learning the Living Word, 4) Current Issues. All adult Sunday morning classes will start their respective studies September 11 (week following Labor Day).

Please continue to provide suggestions and feedback to any member of the Adult Christian Education Committee. Also look for more details of the course offerings in the G.O.L.D Catalogue.

Sincerely,
Brad Hoffman

Committee Members: David Ayers, Tom Boone, Mary Ann Donnell, Brad Hoffman, Ashton Hill, Ann Jung, Lydia Jung, Philip Jung, Sue Martino, Nancy McCrummen, William Shreve, Bill Ward, Bruce Weinard.



The summer schedule will continue through Sunday, September 4th. We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, September 11: Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education classes at 9:30.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, August 7.



From the Stewardship Committee

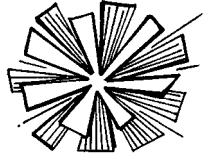
We can be proud that we are members of a church that truly believes in helping others. Of our budget of almost 1.1 million dollars, well over \$250,000 goes towards benevolences. Besides the funds we send to our Presbytery, we give to many local charities and needy organizations. A list of them includes: Habitat for Humanity, Contact Mobile, L'Arche, Penelope House, Salvation Army Women & Children's Shelter, South Alabama Women & Children's Hospital, Presbyterian Children's Home, Crittenton Teen Services, Ozanam Pharmacy, Victory Health clinic, Health Care for the Homeless, Young Life and Wheel-A-Meal.

When we encourage you to give to the Lord and His ministry, you can be comforted by the fact that your monies are doing just that. We are helping fund many of the Lord's ministries right here in Mobile, and we do it cheerfully in the name of Our Lord.

We are pleased to welcome our new members:

Dick and Beth Dearden
6604 Chimney Top Drive South
Mobile, AL 36695
633-9679

Mark and Trent Bullis
4776 Falls Church Road
Mobile, AL 36608
341-5665



*Welcome new
members*

New Deacons and Elders elected

The following Elders and Deacons were recently elected
by the congregation to the Class of 2008:

Elders: Mary Beth Culp, Pat Edington, Joe Hastings, Harvie Jordan, Alex Lankford, Gordon Mowry, Bill Oppenheimer, William Shreve

Deacons: Nancy Adams, Marcia Auttersen, Lexie Barnett, Dick Bradley, Mona Ferguson, Linda Fletcher, Deborah Fry, Philip Jung, Jay Loughran, Donna Massa, Naomi Turner, Emily Watson

Bill Wright was elected Trustee.

**Wednesday night suppers and programs begin
September 14th**

*Supper from 5:45 to 6:30
Programs for all ages from 6:30 to 7:10*

*The adults will study Hannah Whitall Smith's
The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*

*This classic deeply influenced the lives of
Catherine and Peter Marshall,
Ruth and Billy Graham
and countless others.*

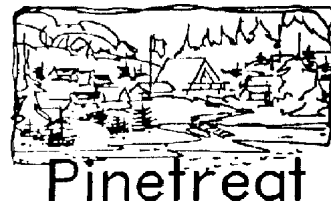
Thanks to Robert Weaver and the Plant Services Committee

It is impossible to pass the church without noticing its beauty and grace. Periodic painting, constant repairs, retiling, steam cleaning doors and sidewalks are just a few of the reasons our buildings are so well-maintained. The beautiful grounds are perfectly manicured and are enhanced by seasonal plantings and neatly trimmed bushes. We are so blessed to have a Plant Services Committee whose members are dedicated to making Spring Hill an attractive facility for its members and guests. And the volunteer efforts of the Yeomen and other members of the congregation are very helpful. At the helm of this committee is Robert Weaver who spends many, many hours laboring to improve and beautify the facility. Our deep thanks go to Robert, whose leadership is greatly appreciated.



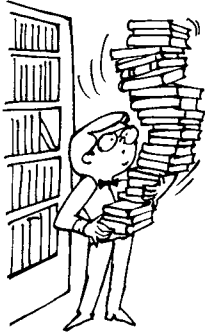
Spring Hill Pinetreat Campers - 2005

Footsteps – Key Lamberth
Beginnings – Mary Katherine Kreider, Thomas Roberts
G.A.S. – Henry Jordan, Luke Walton
Journeys – Mia Milne, Mary Alden Wing
Pathways – Joey Clarke, Alexandra Fry



Library News

If you like history, especially new bits of information about a period, you'll love a not so new title added to the library recently. William Manchester has other titles to his name: *Death of a President*, *The Arms of Krupp*, and *Goodbye Darkness*. But it is *A World Lit Only by Fire* that I have chosen at this point.



A sub-title for the book is "The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age." And it has some of the most fascinating information about these two periods that I have ever read; a real page turner. The author makes you glad you live in this era since the medieval times sound so dreary and without a chance to learn or be yourself. The reader will learn more than he thought possible about Magellan, whose discoveries and adventures set the then known world really spinning, shaking up all those things which had been solidified by church scholars for ages.

Some new software for the computer has arrived and will be ready shortly. Stop by to check it out.

'Youth' by Samuel Ullman

Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind;
It is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees;
It is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions;

It is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity of the appetite, for adventure over the love of ease.

This often exists in a man of 60 or more than a boy of 20.

Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether 60 or 16, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing childlike appetite of what's next and the joy of the game of living.

In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from men and from the infinite, so long are you young.

When the aerials are down and your spirit is covered with snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at 20, but as long as your aerials are up, to catch the waves of optimism, there is hope you may die young at 80.

Births

We rejoice with Swep and Courtney Fraser in the birth of a daughter, Camille Belle, on May 31; with Bruce and Sylvia Weinard in the birth of a grandson, Jack Alan Weinard, on July 1 in Durham, NC (Parents are Chad and Ashley Weinard) and with Bob and Andrea Wilson in the birth of a grandson Samuel Robert Henry on July 18 in Birmingham, AL. (Parents are Amy and Eric Henry. Grace Wilson is the great-grandmother).



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Royce Ray in the death of his mother, Katy Willis, on May 21; with Dick Bradley in the death of his wife, Vivian, on May 26; with Edith Cox in the death of her husband, Frank, on June 3; with Rhoda Pickett in the death of her father, Roscoe S. Pickett, on June 26, in Hattiesburg, MS; with Clayton Pennington in the death of her mother, Mattie Hayles, on July 3 in Uriah, AL; and with Betty Minto in the death of her mother, Ruth Talbert, on July 4.



We rejoice with Buck and Joelyne Trehern in the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 23.



How I wish I could speak to each one of you individually and share with you my feelings of love and gratitude for this church family. During this time in my life you have blessed me with so many acts of kindness that will become cherished memories.

From a smile, a word of encouragement, cards, to food, and gifts to the church; all show the love of Christ. It also gives me the desire in some way to share caring moments with others.

Yes, we are so grateful, and I know Frank would say "Amen."

Edith, John and Julie

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Katy Willis
Elise Nihart
Florence S. Adams
Frank Cox
Mattie Hayles

From the following:

Joan Crawford
Mrs T. B. Laird
Bruce and Paula Knodel
Jeff and Pat Stoll
Sue and Billy McLean
Moren Riley
Peggy Shaw
Sara Long
Ruth Fitzgerald
Dick and Sara Coats
Pat and Amelia Daugherty
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Caldwell
Jim and Nancy Adams
Gail and Roy Kennedy
David and Elaine Freeman
Regions Financial Corporation
Buck and Joelyne Trehern
Royce and Pat Ray
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
The Ehman Family
Don and Pat Zorker

Colleen Lookingbill
Jordan Zorker
Dick and Harriett Pennington
Leland and Jane Waite
John and Marilyn Moses
Susanne Weaver
Roland and Gwin Williams
John and Thelma Bowen
Loucretia Hollingsworth
Joe and Vilma Croom
Freed and Susan Helmsing
Judy McGill
Lewis and Barkley Shreve
Rhetta Wright
Margaret M. Smith
Bill and Anne Layfield
Marion and Malinda McMurphy
Dick and Betty Allen
Bin and Ann Cochran
Paul and Eva Macon
Janie Sims
Ruth and Bill Coats
Frank and Cathi Dagley
Jim and Madge Andress
Mac and Ginger Otts
Ferd and Sue Zundel
Adelaide Wigren
Dick Bradley
Mike and Dot Chambers
Mr. and Mrs John Leach
Larry and Nancy Sims
Martha McCarty
Dal and Pamela Covington

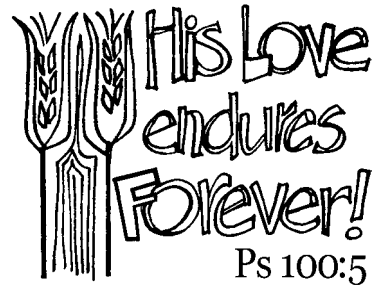
O Lord my God, give ear unto my prayer, and let Thy mercy hearken unto my desire; because it is anxious not for myself alone, but would serve brotherly charity; and Thou seest my heart, that so it is. I would sacrifice to Thee the service of my thought and tongue; do Thou give me, what I may offer Thee.

St. Augustine—*The Confessions of Saint Augustine*

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

August 2005

- 7 *19th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28;
 Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33
- 14 *20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 Gen. 45:1-15; Ps. 133;
 Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matt. 15: (10-20) 21-28
- 21 *21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 Exod. 1:8-2:10; Ps. 124; Rom. 12:1-8
 Matt. 16:13-20
- 28 *22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 Exod. 3rd 1-15; Ps. 105:1-6. 23-26. 45c
 Rom. 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28



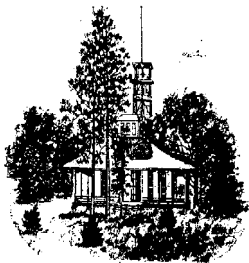
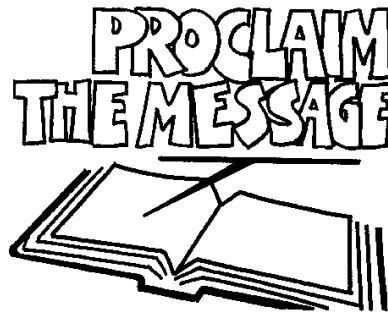
August 2005

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	31			

Church Calendar

August 2005

- 1 Committees
- 1-5 Vacation Bible School
- 2 Officer Training
- 7 Lord's Supper
- 8 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Officer Training
- 15 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Officer Training
- 23 Officer Training
- 28 Teacher Training – 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers. Helterskelter in the summer swelter for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

