

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 62

August 2006

No. 8

From the Pastor...

August is a month of transition for many families in the church. Sons and daughters are going back to school and the older ones are going off to college. There are many emotions surrounding these changes, and right up at the top for our church family is the transition in the directorship of our youth programs.

Molly Broders has been with us for six years and has done a fabulous job in building up a program that any church would like to have. Our debt to her is colossal. I say that first as a father and then as a pastor. Our daughter, like so many children in our congregation, has flourished spiritually and otherwise under Molly's leadership and example. We'll never forget it.

Another person who has flourished under Molly's tutelage is Mark Coats. First as a member of the youth group, then as an intern, Mark has demonstrated remarkable faith and leadership skills. And now in God's good providence, Mark has accepted the offer to be the youth director on a part-time basis for the next nine months. Mark will complete his studies at USA in May '07 and then will be with us full time. Until then, Molly has graciously volunteered to teach the Wednesday night youth Bible study while Mark covers all other responsibilities.

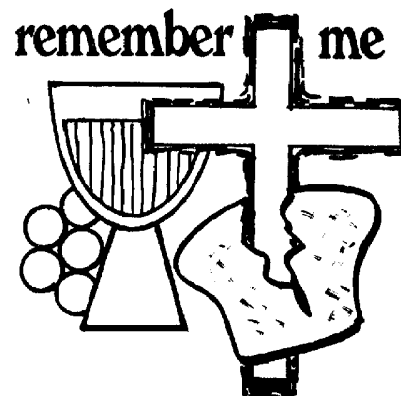
We are very fortunate to have the dedicated leadership that Molly has given and that Mark has already shown. We're also blessed to have had Chris Broders. He's an amazing man who has fully supported Molly and who has provided an unforgettable role model for our youth. We're so grateful for Chris.

God continues to bless our youth in more ways than any one person knows, and for each blessing we are thankful beyond words. That's exactly how we feel about Molly, Chris, and Mark.

May God's grace and favor always rest upon this His church.

In His Love,
Norman

**The Lord's Supper will be
celebrated during worship
on Sunday, August 6.**



Molly's Musings

What Next?

I am having the hardest time writing my final newsletter article. How do you say good-bye and express all you are feeling in a newsletter? Maybe you don't. It would be silly and somewhat self indulgent to get nostalgic, but I would be remiss if I did not express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for all you have meant to Chris, Hannah, and me. We have found such a "home" here, and we cannot express enough what a blessing your love and support has been to us. THANK YOU!

It's funny but for months now – really since I decided to step down as your Youth Director, I have been praying a specific prayer, "Lord, what next?" Don't get me wrong, I know that God has called me out of full time Youth Ministry and into the ministry of being a mother and a wife, but in depth of my heart, I have felt a stirring.

It's amazing how God works, how He speaks to us, and how He reveals His purposes and plans to us. After praying that prayer for many months, I heard Him answer my question in Daytona Beach at the Student Life Conference.

In case you didn't know, I have just returned from attending a youth conference in Daytona with 4 other adults and 23 young people from our congregation. It was my last summer trip as a Youth Director, and it was an INCREDIBLE week for ALL of us. Louie Giglio was the conference pastor and the focal Scripture for most of his sermons was Hebrews 13: 15 – 16.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

After the fourth or fifth sermon on this ONE Scripture, the light bulb in my dense brain and hardened heart finally flickered on. As if God were saying, "Here it is Molly, my blueprint for our future ministry. Right here before you - My very words reveal to you the WHAT NEXT you have been so anxiously praying about!" The amazing thing is that while God used this Scripture to answer my question, this Scripture really is a blueprint for all of us as believers. Here it is, in case you were wondering, God's plan for living a life of ministry and a life of TRUE worship.

So what does this life, this ministry look like? There are three things on which to concentrate:

1. Offering God a sacrifice of praise – fruit of lips that confess His name. Our lips, our lives, and our stories should be all about God all the time. Our conference speaker pointed out that at times doing so will be a sacrifice. In our darkest hour, we are to praise God and depending on the nature of that dark circumstance, we might find it difficult to do. God knows our hurts and our pains. At times, singing His praise and confessing His name WILL feel like a sacrifice. God knows this.
2. Do good. What does it mean to "do good?" I hope the answer is obvious. In thought, word, and deed, we are called to live a life of "doing good." Remember, doing good is NOT a means of salvation, merely the fruit of our salvation.
3. Share with others. James 1:27 says, **"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."** For me, "share with others" means sharing everything I have been given with others especially the poor, the orphaned, the widowed, and those considered "the least of these." From my life to my faith to my financial resources, I feel God is calling me to share all of it with those in need.

Let us not forget the final words of verse 16, "for with such sacrifices God is pleased." It is the desire of my heart to live a life that will please God. As I leave all of you, it is clear to me that God has my work for future ministry cut out, laid out, and ready to go. It won't be easy, in fact, it seems a bit daunting. Won't you embark on this journey with me to live a life of TRUE worship – one that pleases God?

God bless each of you, Molly

Music Notes

By Randy Sheets
Director of Music Ministries and Organist

I recently read a fascinating book by a father and daughter--- Don and Emily Saliers--- *A Song to Sing, a Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice*. Don Saliers is a pastor, musician, and faculty member at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, while Emily is a member of the acclaimed musical duo “Indigo Girls.” Don is an organist and “classical” church musician, while Amy is a “popular” musician and songwriter. Although their musical practices and tastes differ, their collaboration in this book yields deep insights into the role of music in people’s lives. This book could serve as the subject of many columns here, but now I want to share just one memorable quote with you. *“Listening to music and making music together help us find our place, our people, our selves. Searching for a way to belong, seeking to know who we are at the deepest level, is itself a spiritual search; and music accompanies us on the way. Emily observes, ‘We are made up of far more than we imagine. I discover parts of me by hearing what others sing, often in a different language.’ For both of us, this is a lifetime process and a mysterious goal. Listening, composing, performing, we half discover, half create our sense of who we are and where we belong.”*

If your spiritual journey is particularly enriched by music, perhaps you should consider joining one of our music ministry activities (see below). It is my hope that everyone who participates will be led further along the path of spiritual discovery and belonging to Christ and His Church. Come join us.

A New Choir Season Begins— New Members are Welcome in our Groups

Music Kick-off Schedules

Chancel Choir: Wednesday, August 16, 7 p.m.
Spring Hill Ringers (adults)—Wednesday, Sept. 6
Children’s Choirs: Sunday afternoon, Sept. 10
Youth Chorale/Youth Bells: Sunday afternoon, Sept. 10

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule (beginning after respective kick-off dates—see above) (subject to change)

Sunday

5:00-6:00 Children’s Choirs (age 4 by Sept. 1 through grade 5)
Junior Handbells—time tba

5:00-6:00 Youth Chorale (grades 6-12)

Tuesday afternoon Youth Handbells (grades 6-12).

Copper Ringers 3:30-4:15

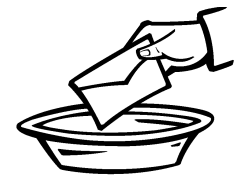
Bronze Ringers (membership by audition) 4:00-5:00

Wednesday 6:00-7:00 Spring Hill Ringers (college age--adults who read music);
(contact Randy Sheets for membership information)

Wednesday 7:00 (or 7:15 on Wednesday study nights) --9:00 **Chancel Choir** (college age----adults)

Stewardship

We as a congregation often discuss our Journey of Faith. This begins with our childhood understanding of God's presence in our lives and expands in adolescence with increasing knowledge of the Bible and God's teachings. As adults, we accept new responsibilities and confront new challenges in living in God's Word. Tithing or increasing our financial commitment to the church is a key aspect of this Journey of Faith.



Stewardship

Molly Wagner's sermon on Lay Sunday, "When God Calls", spoke to the point that giving into God's way, over our own way, reveals unforeseen avenues with which we can walk with the Holy Spirit. It strengthens and purifies our relationship with God and further reveals His plan for our lives. Financial commitment to the church is an integral part of this walk on our Journey of Faith.

We are now roughly halfway through the summer. Many of us have taken time off for vacations or other breaks. The financial needs of our church are constant and ongoing. They require our continued attention, focus and commitment. Please make your financial commitment to the church an evolving and ongoing part of our collective Journey of Faith.

I am happy to report that as of June 30, we have received \$511,201.15 toward our annual budget of \$1,089,000.00.

Yours in Christ,
T. Gordon Mowry

Library News

A Seminary Professor Offers New Outlook

We may not always like what happens over which we have no control, but we can certainly read about how others have handled the same situation and even learned we may need to look at something with new eyes.

Jack Rogers, Professor of Theology Emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary and Moderator of the 2213th General Assembly of the PC(USA) admits in this recent book, *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality*, that as a Christian who is not gay nor has anyone in his family who is gay, he does care deeply about Christ's Church.

He refers to the lesbian, gay, bisexuality, and transgender as LGBT and carefully presents his case that these individuals are entitled to equal rights under the law.

Rogers calls this both a moral and spiritual issue, proceeding to explode the myths, and hopefully heal the church over a subject which has divided both Presbyterians and all denominations of the country from coast to coast. The challenge for having such a book in the church library is one of education and a chance to see what a scholar can see that we perhaps have missed on this sensitive subject.



ONE
GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING

The total received for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was \$5,486.07.



The summer schedule will continue through Sunday, September 3rd. We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, September 10: Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education classes at 9:30.

Educational Outreach Committee

Thank You! Thank You!

The Educational Outreach Committee wants SHPC to know that we have many generous members who have shared their time, energies, and talents with children in our Mobile area public schools during the last year. Sixteen members volunteered in our Partners in Education program with Mary B. Austin Elementary School tutoring elementary students and helping in the library and office on a regular basis. They are Jim Adams, Elisa Baldwin, Lexie Barnett, Norma Baymiller, Dick Bradley, Trent Bullis, Lila Dexter, Peg Heyman, Tod Heyman, Susan Martin, Barbara Maynard, Meg McCrummen, Toni Pearce, Metha Schlich, Tracy Shreve, and Janie Sims. Mary B. Austin's faculty has raved about their work, their attention to children's needs, their success in tutoring, and their helpful and generous spirits. The school has been blessed by our volunteer's efforts.

Additional church members volunteered in other public and private schools and educational agencies such as the public library, helping in many ways we'd love to know more about! Our committee is working to establish a "coordination and information" database for SHPC's education-related volunteerism in Mobile County (public, private, and related agencies) for all or our "Partners in Education," official and unofficial. If you have served in any way as a volunteer in education this past school year, please let us know by filling out the tear off form in the bulletin. We would love to be able to recognize your efforts and contributions in a more personal way!

The goals of the Educational Outreach committee are to initiate, promote, and coordinate church-wide efforts to support education in Mobile (particularly public education), and share enthusiasm about educating children and spreading Christian values. In the fall, we will begin our recruitment efforts for volunteers to serve at Mary B. Austin and elsewhere in our community. We will be seeking people interested in tutoring individual or small groups of children in reading and/or math or volunteering weekly/monthly in a classroom, the library, office, or computer lab at Mary B. Austin Elementary School, our official, assigned MCPSS Partner in Education. We are also looking for volunteers interested in reading to children at schools in Mobile County, as well as people interested in volunteering at schools for short-term or one day projects such as field days, ground/building beautification projects, crafts, career days, etc. We are willing to seek and arrange placements for volunteers who wish to serve in particular MCPSS schools or offer specific services to children. Let our committee know what you would like to do, and we will try to help make it happen!

The Educational Outreach Committee thanks you for all you have done and all you continue to do in our efforts to reach out to our community, and we ask that you prayerfully consider ways you might volunteer during the 2006-2007 school year.

Mother's Day Out



Spring Hill Presbyterian Mother's Day Out will be hiring several teachers for the 2006-07 school term which begins in September. The program runs four days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you or someone you know is interested in working with our wonderful little ones and their parents, please contact Susan Schlichting, Director, at 344-2070 or come by the Mother's Day Out office in the Bullard Building and submit a resume. Mother's Day Out generally has an enrollment of 60 to 65 children and a staff of 8 to 12 teachers. The work is rewarding and children are delightful. Come and be a part of this program.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation; a lay ministry in which people are trained to minister to the congregation in a confidential, compassionate, and Christ-centered way.

Why does one want to become a Stephen Minister? Most people become Stephen Ministers because they have learned the depth of God's love for them, usually through a hardship, and want to share that love with others.

When I was considering becoming a Stephen Minister, I was reluctant because I felt so inadequate. I am inadequate, but I have learned that God is sufficient for me. With his guidance you can become a faint expression of His love. The Stephen Ministry has an excellent training program. The main quality you need is a desire for God to minister through you to others. If you are like other Stephen Ministers, you will receive so much more than you give. It is a blessing to be an expression of God's love.

We will be training another class of Stephen Ministers next year. I hope you will think about becoming a Stephen Minister. If you think this ministry is for you, please let me know—just drop a note in my box at church with your phone number, or give me or another Stephen Minister a call.

Margaret Miller

New Deacons and Elders elected

The following elders and deacons were recently elected by the congregation to the Class of 2009:

Elders: Jim Adams, Michael Chambers, Nancy Hofto, Bruce Maynard, Peter Pearce, Amy Pipes, Pat Ray, Rick True

Deacons: Sarah Clarke, Bill Curtright, Kathy Hamilton, Jody Ivey, Gordon Korb, Bill Layfield, Ann Magee, Betty McKinnon, Caroline Montalban, Chris Pennington, Keith Rivers, Jeff Stoll

Trustee: Bobby McNeely

Parenting Class

This fall a topical class addressing parenting will be offered. The class will be Sunday mornings beginning September 10 and concluding in early December. In this course we will explore the biblical relationship between parents and children. The material applies whether children are newborn infants or grown adults since a parent's role is constant from God's perspective. Based on Tedd Tripp's book *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, we will study God's word in order to learn biblical methods of parenting. For more than modifying a child's behavior, we will discuss practical applications for shepherding a child's heart and fulfilling our godly role as parents. The course will be facilitated by Ellen and Christopher Jones and one additional couple.

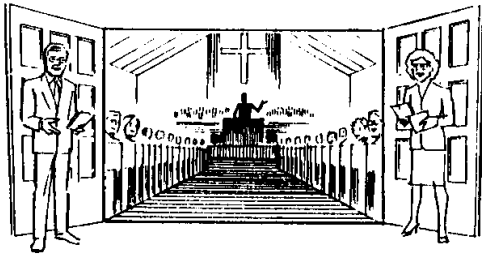
The book *Shepherding a Child's Heart* and a workbook will be available to go along with the class. Please keep an eye out for registration cards and return them to help us better prepare.

Welcome to our new members:

Paul and Jeanne Robinson
1662 Stonehedge Drive West
Mobile, Alabama 36695
633-8488

David and Cherry McLaughlin
256 Montclair Loop
Daphne, AL 36526
458-1612

Kim and Jonathan Moore, MD
75 So Lafayette St
Mobile, AL 36604
479-3309



Welcome to Our Congregation

Moving

Karen Mathews' son, Douglas Mathews, his wife Kimberley and their children Will and Lilly will be moving to Berlin in August. Douglas will be working in the U. S. Embassy.

Spring Hill Pinetreat Campers – 2006

Footsteps
Wilder Wing

Journey 1
Henry Jordan

Journey 2
Mary Curtright
Samantha Fry
Mary Alden Wing



Pinetreat

Pentecost Offering

The total received from the Pentecost Offering was \$525.05.

The choir director was teaching the new anthem. "Don't forget," he said. "You wait until the tenors reach, '...the gates of hell.' and then you come in."

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

--Mark Twain

Honorarium

An Honorarium has been received for Bob and Ginger Callahan from their children:

Bob and Maria Callahan
Mark and Lindy Callahan
Lisa and Craig Dahle
Karen and Paul Myrick



We rejoice with Dick and Sherry Coats in the marriage of their daughter, Lynne, to Gabriel Holloway on June 3 in the sanctuary and with Ben and Ann Rowe in the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth to Reed Lochamy, June 17.



We rejoice with Billy and Sue McLean in the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 7 and with Henry and Hilda Gewin in the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 22.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Susanne Weaver in her death on May 31; with Lynn Locklin in the death of her father, Warren W. Locklin II, on June 5; with Lewis Shreve in the death of his father, James Wilfred Shreve, on June 22; with Jimmy Woolums in the death of his father-in-law, Benjamin Minshew, on July 5; with Wesley Pipes in the death of his grandmother, Maude Pipes, on July 12; with Betty Jackson in the death of her mother, Jessie Mae Crosby, on July 10 in Bastrop, LA; with Anne Meador in the death of her father, Harlan C. Meredith, on July 11 in Tuscaloosa; with the family of Dickson Coats in his death, on July 15; and with Andrea Wilson in the death of her mother, Martha Walworth on July 16.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Jim Andress
Susanne Weaver
Richard True
James Wilfrid Shreve
Elaine Phelps
Ross Phelps
Burt Taylor III
Howard C. Blythe
Jessie Mae Crosby
Dickson Coats

From the following:

Cosby A. Stone, Jr. and Family
Mrs. Tom B. Ross Sr. & John
Dwain and Margaret Luce
N. Q. Adams
Christopher and Sue Hume
Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. McFadden
Sarah and Juan Blackwell
Ruth Rowan
William and Sue Hanlein

Moren Braswell
Mr. and Mrs. William Cowley
Lila Dexter
Helen Wells
Joe and Vilma Croom
AmSouth Bank
Gregory and Florence Leatherbury
Ken Reid
Mary Ehman
Royce and Pat Ray
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Charles and Linda Langston
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Crumpton
Sam and Judy Strada
Madge Andress
Malcolm and Carol Sumrall
Joan Ralph
Dick and Betty Allen
Louis and Jane Williams
Janie Sims
Linda Stevens
David and Mary Ellen Haynes
Eddie Foster
Mr. and Mrs. John Mostellar
Ruby Rash

Roy and Sheila True
Sara Long
Gail and Robert Headrick
Senator and Mrs. Curtis S. Person, Jr.
Willard and Elaine Myers
Evalin Daniel
Katie Bray
Jim Weaver
Bernice Riedeberg
Ted and Marcia Auttersen
Doris (Dee) Major
W. J. Curry and Son, L.L.C. Realtors
Monty and Euber Collins
Bruce and Sylvia Weinard
Mitchell and Lexie Barnett
Joan Crawford
Ree Scott
Margaret Fredricks
Chris and Danielle Pennington
Dick and Betty Allen
Judy and Bill Heiter
Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
Weekday School
Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
Mother's Day Out

Lectionary for the Lord's day

August 2006

- 6 *18th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a; Ps. 51:1-12
Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
- 13 *19th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2. Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps. 130
Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
- 20 *20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Ps. 111
Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
- 27 *21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 8(1,6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Ps. 84
Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

August 2006						
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 2006

- 1 Officer Training - 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Lord's Supper
- 7 Committees
- 8 Officer Training
- 13 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Officer Training
- 21 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Officer Training
- 29 Officer Training

Thought for the month

**An eye for an eye makes the
whole world blind.**

--Gandhi

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

If you think that nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a few car payments

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a firefly show for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

