

SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 68, Number 7, August 2011

A Shepherd of Transitions

It is an honor and privilege for me to have the opportunity to serve Spring Hill Presbyterian Church as the Stated Supply Senior Pastor. My role will be to serve in an interim function. That is what I sense to be my call at this time. For the past eight years I have served Orange Beach, Swift, and First Presbyterian, Bay Minette as Interim Pastor. Prior to that, I worked with over eighty pastorless churches by consulting and training pastor search committees, assisting with administrative tasks, and providing an orientation to their new pastors. It is work I have loved doing and I am grateful to God that he has allowed me to serve churches in various interim capacities.

The Personnel Committee with concurrence of the session has asked me to serve

the Spring Hill Church as a stated supply and not as the Interim Pastor. The reason for this arrangement is that when the church calls a new pastor there is the possibility I could stay as an associate pastor to help the new Senior Pastor until such time a search process for a new associate could be conducted.

Under no circumstances, will I be considered for the position of Senior Pastor of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. That was the rule in the old Form of Government and it was there for the protection of the church. The logic of that rule and my own personal sense of call to interim ministry prohibits me from being considered as the installed pastor. Over the years people have asked me to consider being their permanent pastor. I have

always been honored by their inquiries but my understanding of God's call on my life and ministry must take precedent.

So many of you have expressed your love and support. Thank you. I covet your prayers. These are difficult days for our Church and interim periods always come with an element of uncertainty. But as Dr. Stephen Hayner recently reminded us, Jesus is still Lord and God is still on His throne. It is that certainty, which will carry us in the days ahead.

Blessings,
Mike



"Come As You Are Sunday Chapel Services"

Sunday Evening Services in the Chapel will be held each Sunday in August at 6:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend and "come as you are" to these services which will be August 7, 14, 21 and 28.

It's Coming! SHPC Milestones Ministry

Over the next few months, we will be kicking off our new Milestones Ministry. But, what is a Milestones Ministry? And, why are we doing it? In a nutshell, a Milestones Ministry is a way to mark special moments on one's faith journey. There are many reasons to take on a Milestones Ministry, and in the coming months, you will see some of those reasons highlighted in the newsletter. This time, I'd like to highlight the way that a Milestones Ministry can help us learn the language of faith.

In his video about the book [Soul Searching](#), Christian Smith says that faith is a lot like learning a second language. We can learn it by study and memorization, but to get really good at it we should immerse ourselves in a culture where people use that language daily. By practicing the language with other speakers, the language takes on a new life for us.

By speaking the language of faith and being immersed in the culture and with the people of faith, our faith grows. This congregation is such a place—a place where faith can grow. But if we really want to become proficient at this language we have to practice being immersed in it. We have to actually speak it more often together. Together we can learn from each other about how God is working in our lives.

We talk about our faith every week in worship and in Sunday School, but

those times may not be enough. And, frankly, there aren't enough of us doing the talking. We hear from the pastor often or from those who teach and lead us in Sunday School. When else can we hear the language of faith? Baptism and confirmation are two times when we talk about faith. These are times when we pause to reflect on God's faithfulness in our lives.

But God is faithful to us in all of life. We all agree that our faith walk doesn't end when we make our profession of faith at confirmation, but we sometimes act as if it does. Here at SHPC, we would like our practice to reflect the idea that growing in faith is a lifelong process. That's why we are working to mark other times when we will be intentionally highlighting God's faithfulness in our lives. These faith milestones will give us an opportunity to celebrate God's work with us more often than just at baptism and confirmation. Look for more information on our new Milestones Ministry in the coming weeks and months!

Blessings,

Andrea Hall

Director of Christian Education





Family Faith Formation? There's an App for That!

Looking for ways to speak the language of faith at home more often? Here are Andrea's recommended apps for your iPod Touch, iPad, or iPhone:

Family 'Round the Table, \$0.99

This resource, from The LOGOS Ministry, connects parents and kids in various lectionary-based activities. Each week, you will see ideas for meals, Bible studies, worship, and activities that are designed to support the spiritual development of children.

Faith Talk, vols. 1-3, \$2.99 each

These apps, from Vibrant Faith Ministries, are fun conversation starters for family and friends. It is a great way to pass the time during long car trips or in waiting rooms! These questions allow families to explore faith in a non-threatening way. No need to be a professional Bible scholar or theologian...these games simply ask you to share about how you see God at work in your everyday life.

Not technologically savvy? No problem!

If you don't have an iSomething, you are not out of luck! Here are Andrea's recommended non-virtual tools for family faith formation:

Faith Talk and Faith Talk with Children, \$24.95 and \$19.95

These games from Vibrant Faith Ministries use real cards that come in nifty carrying cases (perfect for traveling)! Faith Talk, which is geared for youth and adults, contains four sets of cards: Actions, Memories, Etchings, and Values. In Faith Talk with Children, the four card sets include: Actions & Feelings, Wondering, Growing Together, and Memories. Each card has a question on it, and you simply take turns asking and answering thought-provoking, faith-related questions. Both Faith Talk and Faith Talk with Children allow for children, youth, and adults to have meaningful, fun conversations together.

God's Big Story Cards, \$9.99

This game from Faith Alive Resources encourages families to learn more about Bible stories together. After reading the story in the Bible, you simply roll the color-coded die to choose one of six ways to explore the story as a family.

All of the above resources can be viewed in Andrea's office (or on her iPhone), and she would be thrilled to order something for you! Blessings to you, as we all seek to speak this often-foreign language of faith!

Stephen Ministry

Most people experience times when they feel the need to have a trustworthy Christian friend to listen and help them sort out feelings about situations or problems they are dealing with. We can supply just the friend you need. Spring Hill Presbyterian Church has trained Stephen Ministers willing to 'walk' with you at such times. Christian love and confidentiality are the foundation of Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry also has plans to begin a new training class in January, 2012. The starting date and the time that the class will meet have not yet been determined.

That will be decided by all the members and leaders of the class at a later date.

If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister or if you are interested in joining the new training class, or just want to talk about Stephen Ministry, please don't hesitate to call me at 344-3937.

In Christ,

Margaret Miller
Stephen Leader

A New Journey

Once again life is leading me down a new path. Now that I am on this new journey, I have to rise to the task. It's not enough that I remain the person that I am, but instead I must grow in order to rightly fulfill the duties that have been bestowed upon me. What tools or method can I use to accomplish this task? The first things that come to mind, as I'm sure many of you will agree with me, are prayer and perseverance. So I start by saying pray for me and the students of the University of South Alabama without ceasing.

My life hasn't always been filled with prayer because the majority of my life I never had a relationship with our Lord Christ Jesus. I lived in the world not knowing that there was something greater than what I could see. One thing that was instilled in me at an early age was perseverance. In fact, it came to me like breathing itself. I never thought about it, but for some reason which I can't explain, whenever I started a task I could never quit. I remember when I was about 10 years old cutting down a pine tree limb by limb to the very stub with a very dull machete or marching 12 miles in the Army for the first time after falling on my knees less than a mile into the course.

As I look back on my life, I can see that every time I pressed forward I was able to accomplish my goal. The same is with us as believers. Whichever ministry God places us in, we have to be able to press forward in order to complete His holy task no matter what the circumstances are. That brings to mind James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." As we live for Him in our earthly bodies, the enemy is right at our door and it desires to have us, but we must conquer it with perseverance.

As for prayer, there's so much to say about prayer and so much that takes place when we pray. Every time we pray we affirm our faith that we believe in the one true invisible God and that He is able to do all things. Campus ministry is a growing ministry with so many challenges. I encourage you all to pray for our ministry. There are so many challenges on the USA campus when it comes to our ministry. Of course you all know that the school is not a Christian school so it's somewhat a tug-n-war game between what the school offers and the ministry.

We're pulling students in one direction, and all the distractions of the campus are pulling them in the other direction, keeping students from Christ. I remember last semester going to a Bible study on campus, where I ran into the "Gay and Lesbian Association" having a drag show. Believe it or not I was very shocked that this was taking place in our school. At first glance, I thought my eyes were deceiving me, but after talking to one of the students about what was going on, she explained it to me and invited me to stay. Of course I refused with a polite "no thank you, I'll pass" and went on my way. This is just one example but there are so many other distractions that keep students away from Christ.

So my charge to you is this "Pray, Pray, Pray and Pray." Pray for the students who are in the dark that they would be lead to light. Pray for the students who are confused about the truth of the gospel. Pray for the students that are on the path, so they won't be shaken and will continue to press forward to the mark. Also, pray for me that I will be His instrument, a bridge for the school to the church.

Brother Shelton

**Welcome
New
Members!**

Edward and Stephanie Lindey
427 Paddock Court
Mobile, AL 36608
859-760-1798

Michael Belue
6004 Maplecrest Court
Mobile, AL 36609
508-2301

Clark and Jill Lyon
3771 Amruth Drive
Mobile, AL 36608
342-8385

Jason Jackson
1105 Wesley Avenue
Mobile, AL 36609
508-2116

Ann McCrory
1105 Wesley Avenue
Mobile, AL 36609
508-2116



Our imitation of God in this life . . . must be an imitation of God incarnate: our model is the Jesus, not only of Calvary, but of the workshop, the roads, the crowds, the clamorous demands and surly oppositions, the lack of all peace and privacy, the interruptions. For this, so strangely unlike anything we can attribute to the Divine life in itself, is apparently not only like, but is, the Divine life operating under human conditions.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

On Stewardship

Stewardship encompasses all the whole gift of life and community from God. A church is people who are “called out” and their fellowship together is a creation of God’s. Recently I came across an article by Rick Renner that speaks to the precious gift of fellowship we have in the body of Christ, the Church. He states:

“The devil has always tried to use people to bring division into the church. There is nothing new about this problem. In fact, James addresses the issues of wrong attitudes and a spirit of strife in James 3:14.

In respect to people being used by the devil to bring division, James 3:14 says, “But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.” The phrase “bitter envying” is very important. It is the Greek word *zelos*, which refers to a fierce desire to promote your own idea to the exclusion of others’ ideas. The word “strife” is the Greek word *eritheia*, which means rivalry or ambition. It can also be translated as a party spirit or a divisive spirit.

The first part of James 3:14 could be translated: “If you have a fierce desire to promote your own ideas to the exclusion of others’ ideas…”

“If you have a spirit of competition and rivalry…”

“If you’re full of selfish ambition…”

“If your actions are creating a party spirit in the church…”

In verse 15, James is telling his readers: “When a person behaves like this, it is obvious that his soul has come under the influence of demonic activity.” Let me assure you that anytime something small becomes a major issue, you need to back up and reexamine what you are thinking and feeling. The devil may be trying to work in your mind and imagination to divide you from people you both love

and need. Do you want to let the devil build a wall between you and the people in your life over something that won’t even matter a year from now? Is it possible that the devil is over-magnifying this problem in your mind and that you are getting a little out of focus over this issue?

Let the Holy Spirit remove the blur of the disagreement and remind you of how much you love that person. Take a few minutes to be with God and let Him search your heart and show you the truth. As you do, you will stop the devil from using you as a source of strife today!”

Blessings,
Your Stewardship Committee

Statement as of June 30, 2011

2011 Pledges	1,155,662
Year to date received	577,585
Other receipts	327
	577,913
Benevolences	50,846
Denomination expense	8,784
Session directed gifts	75,622
Salaries and services	384,450
Programs	12,672
Office expenses	12,338
General & plant services	110,447
Other	17,064
	672,223
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-94,310

For a complete financial report please contact Nena Smith at the church office.



Music Notes

By Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Sing and Play in a New Season!

Our new musical season will begin soon and we are eager to invite all persons to explore how they might get involved in music ministries. Participating in music at our church provides unique opportunities that cannot be duplicated elsewhere, simply because they are rooted not only in the Christian faith, but in the traditions and theology of our own church. You are invited to investigate the opportunities at SHPC in music!

Chancel Choir welcomes new members in its new season, with Wednesday night rehearsals (7:00-8:45) on August 10. The annual kick-off retreat will be on Saturday, August 13. Advanced high school singers through adults who can carry a tune and can learn harmony parts are welcome. Persons who have sung in choirs or played in instrumental groups, or who have studied a musical instrument, will be most comfortable in the group. Please contact Randy Sheets.

Spring Hill Ringers is an auditioned group of advanced youth and adults who practice handbells on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 14. Strong music-reading skills are needed. If you are interested, contact Randy Sheets.

Choirs for Children and Youth begin on Sunday afternoon, September 11. There are singing and ringing groups for children who have turned 4 by Sept. 1, through grade 12. Keep an eye out for more information in the bulletin, at www.shpc.us, and in your mailbox.

We Rejoice

We rejoice with Dick and Sherry Coats in the birth of a grandson, Samuel Towns Lassiter, on May 19 in Birmingham (parents are Frank and Caron Coats Lassiter); with Larry and Claudia Brock in the birth of a grandson, Walker Joseph Brock, on May 20 (Parents are Ryan and Sarah Brock); and with Calvin and Jennifer Weaver in the birth of a son, Chase Logan Weaver, on July 11. Grandfather is Calvin Weaver and Great-Grandmother is Corine Weaver.

We share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Basil Smith in the death of his brother, Dennis Smith, on May 30 in Meridian, and with Sylvia Weinard in the death of her mother, Martha Gouwens, on July 15 in Chicago.

Library News

"So ancient! So fresh!"

Augustine was right! And what better place to affirm this than in a library. Two new acquisitions will bring this home in the following new books.

Presbyterian Women's study this year is focused on the Beatitudes as recorded in the gospel of Matthew and Anne Howard's Claiming the Beatitudes includes nine examples of a new generation's response to the ancient words from Jesus' first sermon.

More ancient thoughts appear in Wendy Magel's Blessing of a Skinned Knee. As a family therapist, Magel discovered there was truth for parenting in her Hebrew heritage. The sub-title says it all: "Using Jewish teaching to raise self-reliant children."

There are wise and helpful in meeting the challenges of 21st century parents. Read and grow wiser.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

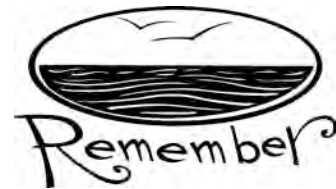
Thanks so much to all the ladies who brought food and helped with the reception for Dr. and Mrs. McCrummen. It was a beautiful reception.

Plans are being made for the Fall Leadership Retreat on August 27th. The group includes last year's officers and new officers for this year. Also, circle chairpersons, please complete your membership lists and give to the office or to Ernestine McElroy.

LECTIONERY FOR THE LORD'S DAY: August 2011

- 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
Mat. 16:13-20
- 28** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exod. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

August 2011	Church Calendar
2	Committees
7	Communion Sunday Evening Chapel Service
8	Children's Ministry – 6:00 p.m.
9	Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
11	CE Meetings – 6& & 7:00 p.m.
13	Choir Retreat – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
16	Session – 7:00 p.m.
19, & 20	Presbytery meeting at Christ Presbyterian, Daphne
22	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
28	Teacher Training – 11:15 a.m.



Memorials have been received for the following:

Dorothy Smith
Lew Carter Curry
Selwyn H. Turner
Dennis Smith
Martha Gouwens

From the following:

Ann S. Massey
Kent and Noel Curry
Anne & Bill Layfield
Sara Long
Robert & Mary Ann Donnell
Nena & Morris Smith

Honoraria have been received in honor of Randy Sheets and Jeff Stoll from Ann and Forrest Wilson.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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The summer schedule will continue through September 4.
We will return to our regular schedule on
Sunday, September 11 with worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m..
Christian Education will be at 9:30 a.m.