

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 61

February 2005

No. 2

From the Pastor...

Two big items:

- (1) Through your generous response to the prompting of God's Spirit, we ended the year \$70,000 *in the black*. The Session had approved for 2004 a budget with a deficit of almost \$54,000.00; but you not only covered that, you exceeded it by \$70,000. *To God be the glory.*
- (2) Festival of Faith will be held Friday through Sunday night, April 8 - 10. Why then? Because students will be in town and the speaker, Travis Crim, has an amazing ability to connect with people of *all* ages. The young people will love him and so will everyone else. A native of Clanton, Alabama, Travis played football for the University of Alabama. He lives in Los Angeles and has a ministry to actors and actresses, he himself being a fantastic actor. A number of people from Mobile (including several members of our church) were enthralled with his speaking and acting at Out-back this past October. So do put the dates on your calendar: April 8-10.

Yours in Him,
Norman



*The Lord's Supper will be
celebrated in worship on
Sunday, February 13, the
first Sunday in Lent.*

Who one believes God to be is most accurately revealed in the way one speaks to God when no one is listening.

— Nancy Mairs, "Ordinary Time"
Christianity Today

LENT

Brian WREN



Hymn Festival Weekend With Dr. Brian Wren

Noted English hymn author and Professor of Worship
Columbia Theological Seminary (Atlanta)

Saturday, March 12

A workshop "for everyone in the congregation. You don't have to be a musician, or think of yourself as a singer. The aim is to enrich our worship; talk, pray and sing together, and have an interesting and enjoyable experience."

Sunday, March 13 (Dr. Wren will preach at both worship services.)

Have you noticed something new?

You may have noticed that our Chancel and Youth Choirs have a new look but you're not quite sure what's different. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Brown Wallace, as well as to the Mothers Day Out program (Susan Schlichting, director), and to several other individuals, the church has been able to purchase much-needed new robes. Mr. Wallace's generosity was such that we will also have funds for other special projects that will enhance and expand our music ministries. Mr. Wallace, who passed away in February of 2004, left one quarter of his estate to the music ministry of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. He had been a member of our church for over 30 years, serving on the Diaconate as well as actively participating in the music ministry.

Mr. Wallace was a man of many talents, serving as executive director of the American Lung Association of Southwest Alabama for 37 years, president of Joe Jefferson players from 1964-66, and a soloist at Spring Hill Avenue Temple for 25 years. He gave so much of himself to our church and through his generosity, his legacy will live on. We are thankful for the talents and gifts that he shared with us.

We are also thankful to the following members of the Robe Committee, who spent many hours in meetings in order to choose robes that are comfortable, attractive in our sanctuary and that will last for many years: Ann Bridgeman, Dick and Sherry Coats, Amelia Daugherty, Bron Dixon, Laura Hastings, Linda Langston, Rita Langus, Barbara Maynard, Stony Price, Randy Sheets, and Dorothy White.

Molly's Musings Life Resolution

Well, it's that time of the year again - time for New Year's Resolutions, new resolve, new commitment. Did you make any New Year's resolutions for 2005? Forgive me for being negative, but if you're like me, you will have forgotten what you even resolved to do or not do by March. I heard a news anchor say, "New Year's Resolutions: why make 'em cause we always break 'em." This statement pretty much sums up my whole philosophy on resolutions, but the more I thought about this subject, the more I began to wonder if my inability to make and keep a resolution points to a deeper truth about humanity. So often we make resolutions much like we lead our lives – based on our own abilities and determination. Then when we fail, when we run out of steam, when our discipline dries up, we feel defeated and useless. Why is it that when we set our feet to the road of living, we often forget the key ingredient to real success: God. Without His help we are but feeble, incapable human beings unable to accomplish anything worthy. It is futile to even try to live a "good, productive" life without God at our side. Anything "good" we do is definitely Him at work through us – not anything we have done by our own might and determination.

This past week, part of my daily Scripture reading for Bible study was Hebrews 12: 1 – 3 which I have decided to make my life resolution. Careful reading of this Scripture reveals the cure for all our failed ventures, "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. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Let us look closely at the sweet and wonderful truths God has given us in these verses.

1. In order to run the race of faith, we must first confess our sins and daily ask God to help us remove them from our lives. Sin entangles us. It holds us back. It keeps us from being the people God wants us to be. It hinders us from living the life of abundance, peace, and hope that God wants us to live. It stifles the work He has created us to do. It squelches our passion, our enthusiasm, and our drive. So what are the sins that are holding you back? Confess them. Receive God's forgiveness then press forward.

2. God has a plan for us. He has clearly marked out for us the race to run, the work to be done, the life to lead. If God has a plan for our lives, then surely He will give us the strength and the ability and discipline to do the work He has called us to do. What work is God calling you to do? Are you open to His direction and guidance? What race is He calling you to run in 2005? Will you commit to discerning His will for your life?

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3. Lastly, we are to focus on Christ as we walk through this life. There is no doubt that the race will be full of obstacles and there will be fellow competitors to distract us from the work at hand, but we must not forget on whom we must place our focus. Without our eyes on Christ, we ARE incapable of doing anything for His kingdom; we are the weak humans who can't even keep a New Year's resolution; we are unable to accomplish anything of real value. We must look forward, knowing that Christ strengthens, Christ enables, Christ disciplines, Christ renews, and Christ regenerates. No matter what journey you are on, if Christ is your focus, HE, who is able, WILL equip you for eternal success.

Let us do away with the silly tradition of making New Year's resolutions based on our own ability to keep them. Instead, let us let God direct our paths, our goals, our work, and our lives. Let us allow Him to point us to the areas in our lives that need to be changed and then let us depend on Him to equip us to do so. May we do all of this with our eyes focused on Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

In 2005, I pray God will equip you with everything you need to live life victoriously for Him.

Yours in Christ,
Molly

Tom's Tidbits

As I look beyond the "new year" phase of 2005 towards the horizon of our spring, summer, and fall I have many hopes for the education ministry of SHPC. In this newsletter I want to share just a few of these with you.

Children's Ministry Team

The Christian Education Committee has commissioned a new ministry team to plan and develop SHPC's ministry to children through grade five. If you have a child age 18 months through grade five, then you will begin to notice some new ministries being extended to you over the coming year. Vacation Bible School, Festival for Children, seasonal carnivals, a mid-week ministry based upon our current Wednesday night format, and coordination of the Sunday CE ministry for ages 2-5 are among the tasks of this new ministry team. We are experiencing much growth among families with children, so this will be an important area of development for CE.

Adult Education Ministry Team

This ministry team continues its work in the news that we have already reached our

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initial target percentage! We are now above 33% adult education attendance compared to average worship attendance. This puts us in the top group of growing Presbyterian churches, so congratulations everyone! We will be exploring educational seminars and opportunities that include Christian parenting, family movie nights, financial ministries, and divorce recovery for parents and children.

Next Generation

This is our ministry to students grades 6-8, which results in their confirmation to the Presbyterian Church in 8th grade. We are now looking for shepherds for next year's sixth graders. Qualifications are maturity in faith, an ability to relate well with youth, and a willingness to commit three years to the journey of confirmation with your Next Generation team.

UPCOMING CE NEEDS!

CE is currently on the look out for volunteers! We have a growing ministry and we need people to encourage it along by the giving of their time. Please consider the following, in case we miss you in our canvassing. If anything here seems appealing, fill out the enclosed form and we'll get in touch with you for a conversation about it.

1. Next Generation Shepherds: We will need a couple who is willing to walk alongside next year's sixth graders in our three year confirmation ministry. This will be a three year commitment, because shepherds stay with their youth through each grade of Next Generation. Current shepherds are Norma and Dick Baymiller, and Sherry and Dick Coats. Qualifications: mature faith, ability to teach and learn with youth, relationship-oriented, can commit three years to the youth.
2. Vacation Bible School volunteers. People are needed on all levels of participation. If you can design a set, teach children, prepare snacks, lead singing, prepare materials at home, purchase program needs, or anything else that might be helpful, we need you!
3. Journeys of Faith teachers. This is a great entrée into a lifestyle of discipleship for you and your family. We provide the training; all you need to provide is two months of teaching in a workshop. Qualifications: maturity of faith, teachable spirit, love for children, flexibility, and team sense.
4. Ministry team members. Each of the educational ministries of SHPC is designed by various ministry teams. If you would like to be part of a ministry team who will be

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responsible for thinking about and planning one of several educational ministries at SHPC, please let us know. Qualifications: a love for Christ, team sense, helping attitude, and passion for a particular area (children, teaching, adults, etc.). Currently we have vacancies in the children's ministry team and adult education ministry team.



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Please contact me about the Christian Education ministry needs listed above. I know this isn't a commitment, but I would like to hear more.

List your area of interest: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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Changes to the Adult Education G.O.L.D. catalogue!

The Influence of Rome on the Western Church, taught by Tom Boone.
Meets on Sunday mornings in the Large Parlor
Dates: January 23 – February 13.

The Gospel of John in Film, a multi-media Bible Study experience, led by Tom Boone.
Meets on Sunday mornings in the Large Parlor
Dates: February 20 – March 27.

The 5 S's: a basic primer in evangelism, taught by Philip Jung
Meets on Sunday mornings in the Large Parlor
Dates: March 27 – April 24.

Valentine Luncheon

Everyone is invited to a Sweetheart Valentine Luncheon in the Bullard Building on Sunday, February 13, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Cost is \$4.00 for adults; \$2.00 for child, \$20 Family Max. Reservations may be made on the sign-up sheet on the hall table, bulletin tear-off or by calling the church office.

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, February 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, February 9 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00. (Watch the bulletin for the location)
- #2 at 9:15 a.m. in David's Diner
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor
- #4 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor



PRESBYTERIAN Women at Spring Hill are very active with many interests and talents. We are planning to include the following for this year: shoe box gifts to our college students, baby gowns and blankets to local hospitals, greeting cards (used) to a nursing home. We also provide lap robes for shut-ins at a local home for the aged, Christmas stockings for a local Mulherin Home for adults, lap robes (quilted) for Presbyterian Home – plus we have sent several “love covers” for the Children's Home. “Linus” blankets and caps and memory blankets and booties are given as well.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 17th – the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering. Spring Hill will host the meeting this year. More information about this and making your reservation will come soon!

We thank Circle 3 and the members of the congregation who participated in the Hanging of the Greens for the decorations at Christmas. The sanctuary was absolutely beautiful!

Easter Lilies

Lilies will be part of the sanctuary decorations for worship on Easter Sunday, March 27. The plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Service committee in the name of the church following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on the 27th. Cost will be \$10.50. Please call the church office if you

wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Deadline is March 14.



Parish Nurse Program

Thanks to those of you who have responded to our Parish Nurse Program by filling out the survey form in the last Newsletter. We would love to hear from more of you. Please take one of the survey forms from the box on the back table in the hallway, fill it out, and place it in the Parish Nurse box in the mailroom. This will help us in our planning for next year.

Thank you.

Thank you! Thank you! ☺

The Educational Outreach Committee wants SHPC to know that we have many generous members who have shared their time, energies, talents, books, and/or videos with children in our Mobile area public schools during the last year. We have volunteers who read with the same children every week in two of our downtown schools as a part of the “America Reads” program. Eight members volunteer in our Partners in Education program with Mary B. Austin Elementary School, tutoring elementary students and helping in the library and computer lab. And many members have contributed books and videos for children 5-12 years old in our on-going “book drive” to benefit the library at the Boys and Girls Club on Cody Road.

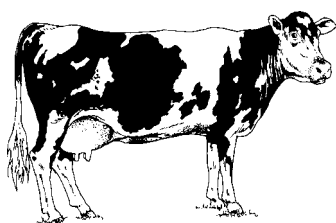
If you are interested in participating in one of these tutoring ministries, please contact one of our committee members: Jim Adams, Lexie Barnett, Sherry Coats, Christopher Jones, Bob Oatsvall, Vera Lynn Sheets, and Gayla Wiik. Or if you have appropriate books or videos to donate, please look for our “book crate” box in the collection area in the hall of the sanctuary building.

In March and April, the Current Issues class is planning two programs related to our work. On Sunday, March 6, Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, principal at Mary B. Austin, will speak to the class about the school, its partner relationship with SHPC, the work we are doing there, and the needs that the school and its students have. And for Sunday, April 17, plans are being made for a panel discussion with area teachers regarding education in Mobile County and the impact of the “No Child Left Behind” act. You are invited to join the class for both of these sessions held in the Edington Building.

Our committee thanks you for all you have done and all you continue to do in our efforts to reach out to our community.

Update on Heifer Project

Through the extraordinary contributions of our congregation, the Global Missions Committee wishes to report to you that to date \$5,178.00 has been given to Heifer International in support of our church’s continuing dedication to the Heifer Project. Heifer International was formed in 1944 to assist those in need around the world by providing animals like cows, chickens, water buffalo, pigs and other animals that provide a renewable source for food and clothing, create income and perform work for their owners.



Thank moooooo!

Through God’s grace we have made the world a little better place by our spirit of giving. Thanks be to God.

Library News

Learning Through Watching



Even if you plan to visit the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit, you will enjoy a new library DVD entitled *The Secrets of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, produced by Questar, Inc. In addition to the usual material on the discovery and its importance, this program includes details of the care and maintenance of the ancient scrolls. The Rockefeller Museum in Jordan has employed experts in handling and displaying the material sometimes referred to as “DSS Con-fetti.”

Another winner from the History Channel’s award winning programs is on DVD now: *The History of God*. Karen Armstrong, noted British religious researcher, has compiled a documentary on man’s search for a higher power across the ages. Both of these DVD programs are now available for use from the church library.

Cephas Stern Family Update

In a recent letter, Cephas reports “We continue to rejoice the day we came in contact with SHPC (September 21, 1988).

Our family is still Hyacinth, Cephas and 3 boys (21, 19 and 16). The boys are all over 6 ft. and, as boys, they are good at eating. The youngest is still in high school. The next is in college and the oldest has just finished college, earning a diploma in mechanical engineering. He is now hunting a job.

Hyacinth is still a supervisor/teacher in primary school in the district. I am still pastoring 5 congregations and have been chairman of our presbytery now for 6 years. I am a member of the synod’s executive committee and as such not only do I attend meetings in Kingston, but I share in policy and program decisions.

Our church buildings and manse were severely damaged during Ivan and also some member’s homes.

All is not lost because we believe in the scripture. “God cares for us.”

(Note: SHPC continues to support the Stern family through Global Missions.)



The total received for the Joy Gift offering taken during the Advent and Christmas season was \$2,211.43.

Thank you!

The Service Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped deliver poinsettias to our shut-ins and sick.

My opinions have changed, but not the fact that I am right.

— Ashley Brilliant

Sacred cows make the best hamburger.

— Mark Twain

From the Stewardship Committee

Praise God. Thanks to the faithful stewardship of our church family, our 2004 financial results were outstanding. As you know, we entered the year with almost a \$54,000 deficit budget. Due to the generosity of our members, we turned our deficit into a surplus of almost \$70,000, a positive swing of \$123,000.

What a testament to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in this church. There is no denying the excitement and commitment of the members of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Because of your faithfulness, our church is able to continue spreading Christ's message not only in our church, but in our community and around the world. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,
Rick True



The thanks of the congregation is expressed to the Officers in the outgoing class of 2004:

Elders: Carolyn Brown, Dick Coats, Jr., Al Giles, Nancy Hofto, Marilyn Moses, William Shreve, Judy Stout.

Deacons: Dick Bradley, Mary Beth Culp, Ruth Fitzgerald, Marcy Harris, Ashton Hill, Lexie Jones, Nathan Miller, Brian Oatsvall, Gayla Wiik.

From the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is considering updating the assisted listening devices in the sanctuary and would appreciate input from those of you who may be interested in having this service. If you have a hearing problem and are having difficulty hearing in the sanctuary, please answer the following and send the form to the church office or place it in the collection plate.

I would be interested in having an assisted listening device in the sanctuary: _____

I currently wear a hearing aid but would use another listening device if available: _____

Additional comments: _____

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be on February 15th at 7:00 a.m. **Please note this change in date.** The program will be announced in the mail-out card and in the bulletin.

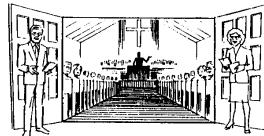
First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday Lunch will be on February 3rd at 11:45 a.m. Delicious food will be prepared by our Chef Pat. Watch for program information in the bulletin.

Tartan Banners

Some members of the congregation have expressed an interest in purchasing a Tartan Banner for our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans. If you are interested, contact Mary Ann or Robert Donnell or Nancy McCrummen.

We are pleased to welcome our new members:



Welcome to Our Congregation

Edwin and Kelley Lamberth
409 Ridgelawn Drive West
Mobile AL 36608
343-5733

Cassie Steele
113 Pinebrook Drive East
Mobile, AL 36608
342-0070



We rejoice with Carter and Mary Kathryn Bryars in the celebration of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on November 27.



Festival of Faith

*Friday through Sunday night
April 8 - 10.
Travis Crim - Speaker*



We rejoice with Gene and Tracy Warhurst in the birth of a daughter, Celia Ann Warhurst, on November 16; with David and Cathy Dexter in the birth of a daughter, Margaret "Cally" Dexter on December 2; with Gaillard and Patsy Hamilton in the birth of a granddaughter, Clair Wilcox Hamilton, on December 21 (Parents are Robert and Michele Hamilton); with Jim and Kathleen Kaufman in the birth of a daughter, McLaurin Elizabeth Kaufman "Mackie" on December 27. (Grandparents are Mitch and Sally Cobb); and with Sallie Connell in the birth of a grandson, Connell Patrick Donohue, on January 7 in Chicago, IL (Parents are Kevin and Amy Connell Donohue).



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Norma Baymiller in the death of her sister, Edith Pascual, on November 25 in Panama City, FL; with Joelyne Trehern in the death of her brother-in-law, Wenton Walker, on November 28 in Jackson, MS; with Doris McGowan in the death of her mother, Doris Morrissette, on December 8; with the family of Janet Dean in her death on December 8 in Moss Point, MS; with Ann Magee in the death of her father, Agee Broughton, on December 13 in Monroeville, AL; with Wagon Whigham in the death of his father, Robert Whigham on January 11; and with the family of Howard Mathis in his death on January 12.

Memorials for January

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Esther Laughlin
Billy Nelson
Ted and Annie Ayres Terry
Doris Morrissette
Ada Lees
Brown Wallace
Charles McLean
Agee Broughton
Ron Massa
Glen Butler

From the following:

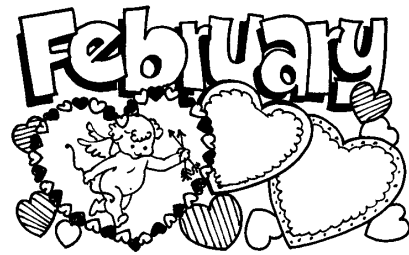
Sara Long

Leland and Jane Waite
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Rouse
Elizabeth and Leslie Rouse
Willam and Anne Terry Sherren
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Mary Ehman
Mark Midyette
Lynn Williams
Teresa Jones
Eugene and Ellen Marler
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nicolson
Dick and Sara Coats
Dick Coats, Jr.
Fred Coats
Nancy Lloyd Bryan
Phillip and Mary Wyatt

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

February 2005

- 6 *Transfiguration of the Lord*
Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17: 1-9
- 13 *1st Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32;
Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11
- 20 *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 12:1-4a; Ps. 121;
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 27 *3rd Sunday in Lent*
Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95; Rom. 5:1-11;
John 4:5-42



February 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					

Church Calendar

February 2005

- 2 PW Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 3 1st Thursday Lunch
- 8 Mardi Gras – Church office closed
- 9 Circles
Ash Wednesday Noon Service
- 10 Presbytery Meeting – Cottage Hill Presbyterian
- 11 Tai Chi
Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 13 Lord's Supper (1st Sunday of Lent)
Valentine Luncheon following 11:00 a.m. service
- 14 Tai Chi
Committees
- 15 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
- 16 Lenten Service – Noon
- 21 Newsletter deadline – 9:00 a.m.
Session
Diaconate
- 23 Lenten Service - Noon



Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and love bites from Al E.
Cat and Ti Amo.