

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 63

June/July 2007

No. 6

From the Pastor...

By the good providence of God, our church will be blessed with a Festival of Faith that will inspire, delight, and challenge. For two days, July 8 and 9, Dr. Andrew Purves will be at Spring Hill to share the riches of the faith as found in Acts chapter 4. I encourage you to read chapter 4 many times over before the Festival begins. Let it sink into your heart and mind. Let its power and truth take you to a new level of understanding; and then pray that you will be receptive to whatever insight and blessing God has prepared for you.

Dr. Purves is a native of Scotland (he hasn't lost his accent), a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and one of our denomination's sharpest theologians and most articulate speakers. If you heard him at in 2000, you know what I mean. If you have joined the church since then, you are in for a great treat.

So please post the Festival calendar where you can see it daily:

Sunday, July 8	10:00 a.m. service 6:00 p.m. dinner 7:00 p.m. service
Monday, July 9	12:00 noon luncheon with Dr. Purves 6:00 p.m. dinner 7:00 p.m. service

Laura and Joe Hastings are co-chairing the Festival. Turn to them to volunteer your services and to assure them that you are praying for the Festival. I know they would appreciate it.

May God bless each one of us as we open ourselves to His truths and grace as found in His Word, both Written and Incarnate.

Yours in Him,
Norman

Molly's Musings Grace upon Grace

I know you have probably just read Dr. McCrummen's article about our upcoming Festival of Faith. In thinking about the theme, *Living in the Name of Jesus*, something dawned on me this past week.

Have you ever had to live, work, or deal with someone who has a critical spirit? Or has time, experience, and habit rendered you a critical spirit? Some of us have critical spirits only toward ourselves. Others abound in grace for people in general but lack it for their loved ones and those closest to them. There is no doubt the world has a generous smattering of critical spirits, and if you are not careful, you too will have one before long.

Critical spirits can be contagious.

On Mother's Day, Dr. McCrummen prayed a special prayer for all mothers to have "grace upon grace." I've heard him pray and speak these words many times over the last 7 years, but I'm not really sure I understood their meaning until a particularly hard day this week dealing with an unusually large dose of critical spirits.

It was just one of those days. I know we all have them. It just seemed like everywhere I turned someone had a gripe, a complaint, a nasty growl. By the end of the day I found that I had internalized all of these critical spirits and found myself wondering if I was adequate enough to do my job, be a mom, be a friend, be a daughter, be a wife, and the list goes on. "Man, I just don't measure up anywhere" I thought. As you can see, I have just confessed that I have a critical spirit.

As I sat having a pity party for myself, the words "grace upon grace" came into my mind. That's it. That's what I need. That's what we all need. MORE GRACE. I need people to have grace with me when I fall short. I need to have grace with myself when I make mistakes. Grace giving and receiving IS the solution to a critical spirit. The simple definition of grace is getting something you don't deserve. Now think about the implications of having grace upon grace.

As we reflect on what it means to live in the name of Jesus, I can't think of a better exercise than to practice grace. Let's give what's undeserved to the people we work with, to the people we love, and to ourselves. Can you imagine what a radical shift there would be in the world if everyone gave grace and received grace? Instead of pointing out other's faults and harping on what's gone wrong, grace would cover the shortcomings and hurt would be replaced by love. What better way to live in the name of Jesus than to be a vessel of grace?

My whole being is rocked by the simplicity of this truth. Imagine the impact we could have for Christ on this lost world if we simply bestowed grace and allowed others to bestow it on us! After all, we are called to be a reflection of the grace we have received through our salvation. I pray that we, as a congregation, will unshackle ourselves from any critical spirit within us so God can unleash the power of grace in our lives.

I will close with a prayer for us to pray daily, "Lord, I thank you for the grace and salvation that I have received through Your Son, Jesus. Transform me into a vessel of Your grace. May my cup overflow with it so that I may be full of it and have plenty to give to others. Amen."

Prayer – A ministry for ages 1 through 101+

God calls his house “a house of prayer” (Isa 56:7, Matt 21:13 + others). We are admonished in scripture to pray always, continuously, and for all the saints (Eph 6:18, 1 Thess 5:17). In obedience to the command, we have begun praying for the saints of Spring Hill by name each Wednesday from 6 to 7 pm. We also pray for God’s blessing on the worship service just before the service begins (9:45 during the summer) and immediately following for anyone requesting special one-on-one prayer. 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. We would like to pray for each member each week and begin soliciting special prayer requests.

We are praying for YOU; come join us to pray for others.

Sabbatical for the Senior Pastor

On April 17, 2007, the Session approved a sabbatical for Dr. McCrummen for June and July, 2007. During this time he will lead a previously scheduled tour to France, then rest and study at Coventry in England. This sabbatical was recommended by Samford Turner, Executive Presbyterian of the Presbytery of South Alabama, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, Spring Hill’s Personnel Committee and members of the congregation.

This sabbatical will allow Dr. McCrummen an extended time for reflection, relaxation, research, study, and spiritual enrichment. Dr. Mark Mueller will ably fill the pastoral requirements and lead the programs and activities of Spring Hill during Dr. McCrummen’s absence.

After eight years of dedicated service to Spring Hill and the community this is a well-deserved break for Dr. McCrummen and we look forward to his return in August refreshed and with renewed energy.

Dick Baymiller
Chair, Personnel Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

The total received for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was \$4,485.00.

Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.

—C. S. Lewis



We are on our Summer Schedule now. Worship at 10:00 a.m. and Christian Education classes at 9:00 a.m.

Reggie Weaver Receives Residency

Reggie Weaver, recent graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, was examined and approved for ordination at the Presbytery meeting in Pascagoula, MS on May 8, 2007.

Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis has called Reggie as one of its Lake Fellows, a two year residency in the Presbytery of White Water Valley. In his examination by the Presbytery of South Alabama, Reggie outlined the Lake Family program which has as its "over-arching goal...to inspire young men and women to develop those personal disciplines essential to the pursuit of a learned ministry."

The Lake Family Endowment at Second Presbyterian in Indianapolis supports as many as six residences in each class of a 2-year program comparable to a physician's residency, complementing the seminary's academic program. Reggie will be part of a study whose focus is on the various areas of ministry and leadership skills including evangelism, mission and urban outreach, pastoral care, Christian Education, preaching and worship, administration and stewardship.

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway, senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church and Program Director writes that "this 2-year residency program... is for seminary graduates who hold particular promise as pastors, and wish to develop their ministerial skills under expert supervision in a large church setting."

Reggie begins his five-month rotations in August. His ordination will take place July 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Spring Hill PC.

Welcome to our new members

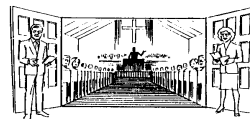
Jeremy Smith
101 Foreman Road, Apt. C88
Mobile, AL 36608
599-6715

Melissa & Mack Howell
3759 Amruth Drive
Mobile AK 36608
382-1804

Cynthia Butz
2754 Seaton Court
Mobile, AL 36693
666-4257

Nicholas Vrakelos
56 LeMoyne Place
Mobile, AL 36604
415-0193

Dan Detman
3050 Yorkwood Road East
Mobile, AL 36693
661-1347



**Welcome to Our
Congregation**

Nature herself has imprinted on the minds
of all the idea of God.

— Cicero

God enters by a private door into every in-
dividual.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Library News



Summer offers the opportunity to read or experience learning at a slower pace.

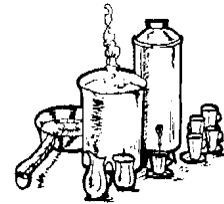
Picture books are one way to do that; video another. Recently the library received a book from one congregational member, published by a former member. Dr. Daniel Potts, who we knew as “Danny” when he was a med student at South singing in our choir, is now a neurologist in Tuscaloosa, AL

His book of poetry has been compiled with pictures of paintings his father, Lester Potts, did while a resident at Caring Days, an assisted living facility in Tuscaloosa. The poetry is somewhere between Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson while the painting details the development of Lester’s Parkinson’s disease in the selection of both color and subject matter. Together there is an amalgamation of father and son which makes for a great father’s day tribute from an old friend. This signed copy of the *Broken Jar* by Daniel C. Potts is available on the display table in the library.

For viewing, the library now has a copy of the PBS *Secrets of the Dead*, subtitled *Battle for the Bible*, which is part of our Multimedia series and includes the Teaching Company lectures *The Story of the Bible*, a recent memorial to honor James Prescott from his sister.

Church Cookbook

Such exciting news! Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is publishing its first Cookbook. We want to create a cookbook that will make our church family proud and we cannot do it without your help.



Everyone has a favorite recipe or two and we want yours! Submit three, four or even more of your best recipes so your family will be represented in this memorable collection.

Our deadline has been extended to June 15th.

The focus of the cookbook is on recipes which are easy for today's busy family to prepare but there will be those 'delightfully decadent' recipes you simply can't resist, too. Please submit 'tried and true' recipes that are favorites of your family which you use either every day or on special occasions.

Forms will be available in the hallway behind the sanctuary, or look for our bulletin board across from the Parlor where there is a collection box. You can also submit a recipe by e-mail at springhillcooks@bellsouth.net Call Jeff (610-4289) or Pat Stoll (680-3200) if you have any questions.

Presbyterian Women's News

On Wednesday, May 9, the following officers for the Presbyterian Women of our congregation were installed:

Moderator	Amy Walton
Vice-Moderator/Program	Emily Watson
Secretary	Phyllis Crabtree
Treasurer	Ernestine McElroy
Historians	Gwin Williams
	Hilda Gewin
Devotional Leader	Phyllis Crabtree
Mission Opportunities	Jane Moser
Bible Study Leader	Ann Jung
Advisory Board	Jane Waite, Tracy Shreve



Circle Co-Chairpersons

Circle 1	Clayton Pennington
Circle 2	Mendy Turnipseed, Meagher Whigham
Circle 3	Marcy Harris, Linda Fletcher
Circle 4	Ellen Pitman

2007 Life Membership Committee
Judy Strada, France McDonald, Phyllis Crabtree

Alabama/Mississippi Conference will be held July 24-27 at Belhaven College, Jackson, MS

Congratulations to our Graduates

We have been notified of the following members of SHPC who will be graduating this spring.

High School: Katie Beard, Sarah Katherine Clarke, Charlotte Hamilton, Chelsea Levi, Meg McCrummen, Ashley Mueller, Mary Alice Shreve, Caitlin Walton



College: Meghan Hofto (Rhodes College)

Graduate School: Ryan Weaver (Rhodes College)

Seminary: Reggie Weaver (Columbia Theological Seminary)

Festival of Faith

featuring

Andrew Purves

Sunday, July 8 & Monday, July 9

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. service

**Supper both nights: 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
\$6.00 Adult; \$4.00 Child; \$20.00 Family Max
Bullard Building**

Services both nights: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Monday: luncheon with Dr. Purves – 12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall

Children's activities each night

Meals and Nursery: reservations required for both.

Festival of Faith Activities for Children:

Sunday, July 8th: Nursery available for infants - 2 years old
Kindermusik for ages 2 – 5
Gospel Magician for grades 1 – 5

Monday, July 9th: Nursery available for infants – 2 years old
Water Extravaganza for ages 2 – 5th Grade
Wear your bathing suits and bring a towel!



Please make reservations for your meals and for the children's activities through the church office 342-1550. We need to know the number of children so we can plan accordingly. See you in July!



We rejoice with Kathy McLeod in the marriage of her daughter, Ashley, to David DeWitt Dukes, Jr. on April 28 in the sanctuary; with Torch and Linda Hollingsworth in the marriage of their daughter, Hallie, to John Croom, grandson of Joe and Vilma Croom on May 5; with Larry and Claudia Brock in the marriage of their son, Ryan, to Sarah Wittendorfer on May 12; and with Bill and Nancy Oppenheimer in the marriage of their daughter, Nancy, to Norman Staples Wood, on May 26 in the sanctuary.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Myrtis Prescott in the death of her husband, Jim, on April 2; with Sue McLean in the death of her mother, Mary Robinson, on April 6 in Franklin, TN; with Rita Langus in the death of her brother, Clark Cochran, on April 28 in MS; with Ann Bridgeman in the death of her sister, Rachel Leah Booker, on May 3; with Eva Macon in the death of her sister, Mary Julia (Judy) Roberts, on May 5; with Rick True in the death of his mother, Sylvia True, on May 11; and with the family of Jim Lees in his death on May 16.



We rejoice with Andy and Mary Lena Harper in the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 4.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Howard W. Rhodes
Tommye Miller
Henry Gewin
Max McGill
Grace Davis
Grace Wilson
Mary Robinson
Sylvia True
Jim Prescott
Jim Lees

From the following:

Ben and Ann Rowe
Mrs. R. O. Laffre
Pat and Royce Ray
Sara Long
Buck and Joelyne Trehern
George and Greta Massing
Billy and Sue McLean
Charles and Laurie Murrell
Madge Address
Mike and Nancy Hofto
Sara Martin

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Charles and Linda Langston
 Wardlyn, Harry and Jonathan Bassler
 Randy and Vera Lynn Sheets
 Gordon and Margaret Mowry
 Bob and Ginger Callahan
 Carter Bryars
 Madge and Walter Rody
 Wendy and Logan Gewin
 Erla and Bucky McMillan
 Martha Entrekin
 Aileen Lott
 Martha McCartney
 Mrs. N. H. McCrummen
 Janie Sims

Michael and Tamara Clancey
 Jim and Nancy Adams
 Stony and Virginia Price
 Larry and Nancy Sims
 Bruce and Barbara Maynard
 Tod and Peg Heyman
 Betsy and Bill Haffner
 Bob and Kim Willett
 Helen Wells
 Dorothy Outlaw
 Ann and Lester Bridgeman
 Jo Chateau
 Molly and Alex Lankford
 Mr. and Mrs. Heyward B. Clarke
 Marianne Thomas

Kneading and rising

As I knead the flour
 I think of all the many grains
 that have been ground to make it.
 Christ's church is like flour –
 made up of many people of many races,
 ground up to make a single dough.

As I watch the dough rise
 I think of the yeast's power;
 raising up the weight of flour and water.
 Prayer in Christ is like rising dough,
 drawing together every hope and fear
 and lifting them up to God.

– Robert Van de Weyer, *Celtic Parables*

What does it profit,
 my brothers and
 sisters, if some one
 claims to have faith
 but has not works?
 Can such faith
 save? If a brother or
 sister is ill-clad and in lack of
 daily food, and one of you
 says to them, "Go in peace,
 be warmed and
 filled," without
 giving them the
 things needed for
 the body, what does
 it profit?
 (James 2:14-16)

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and
 baskin' robins for Ti Amo
 and Al E. Cat.



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

June 2007

- 3 *Trinity Sunday*
Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8;
Rom. 5:1-5; John 6:12-15
- 10 *10TH Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24); Ps. 146
Gal. 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
- 17 *11th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 21:10-10 (11-14) 15-21a;
Ps. 5:1-8; Gal. 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3
- 24 *12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a;
Ps. 42 and 43; Gal. 3:23-29;
Luke 8:26-39

July 2007

- 1 *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Kings 2:1-22, 6-14; Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20
Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
- 8 *14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30;
Gal. 5:1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 15 *15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 7:7-17; Ps. 82; col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37
- 22 *16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Amos 8:1-12; Ps. 52; Col. 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42
- 29 *17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Hos. 1:2-10; Ps. 85; Col. 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Church Calendar

June 2007

- 5 Committees
11-15 Myrtle Beach – Senior High
12 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
19 Session – 7:00 p.m.



July 2007

- 4 Church Office Closed
8-9 Festival of Faith
15 Lay Sunday
Ordination Service of
Reggie Weaver – 4:00 p.m.
16 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
16-20 Ocala – Junior High
20 Young Families evening at Springhill Swim Club
24-27 AL/MS Women's Conference at Belhaven College, Jackson, MS
25 Teacher Training – 6:30 p.m.
30-August 3 VBS

God, brilliant Lord,
yours is a household name.
– Psalm 8:1, The Message

Who is God?

God is a spirit and cannot be seen. We can feel God's presence or know inside of us that God is there. It's like the air. We do not see the air but we know that it is there: we breathe it and we can feel it on a windy day. We can see the things that the air does when the wind blows or when the air dries something out. If we didn't have the air to breathe we wouldn't be alive, but important as it is, we cannot see it.

It's sort of the same thing with God. We cannot see God but we know that God is with us. The Bible tells us things that God does and shows us what God is like. For example, the very first book of the Bible tells us that God created the world so we say that God is "Creator."

God lived among us as a human being in the person of Jesus. Sometimes we speak of this as God *incarnate* which means "God as a person."

Jesus often called God *Abba*. In the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke this means *Father* or *Papa*. It was Jesus' way of saying not so much that God was a man but that God was like a trusted and loving parent – someone who cares for us no matter what. Jesus did not want us to be scared of God but to trust God and to know that we could always talk to God in prayer.

People writing the Bible used many different words and images to try and describe God. The wide variety reminds us that God is bigger than all the words we can use and more wonderful than all the pictures we can imagine. Words can help describe God but they are just a starting point because God has no limits.

Listed below are a few of the images for God in the Bible. Look them up and talk about them using questions such as these:

- What do you like about each image or name for God?
- What does it make you think about or feel?
- Where have you noticed this image – perhaps in a picture, a song, or a book?

Psalms 104:27-28 (*provider*)

Exodus 3:2-4 (*fire*)

Isaiah 66:12-13 (*nurse, mother*)

Luke 11:2-4 (*father*)

John 15:1 (*gardener*)

Isaiah 17:10 (*rock*)

Luke 15:8-10 (*homemaker*)

Psalms 23:1 (*shepherd*)

Jeremiah 18:6 (*potter*)

Mark 1:10 (*dove*)

Genesis 1:1 (*creator*)

Psalms 44:11 (*helper*)

John 1:1 (*word*)

Psalms 127:1 (*carpenter*)