

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian
Church

The Rainbow - A Reminder

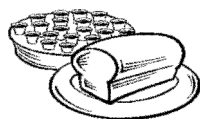
Sometimes people say they prefer the “God of the New Testament” as being much gentler than the “God of the Old Testament”.

It's kind of ironic, when you think about it, seeing as it is, of course, the same God. Beyond that, the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) present many images of God's gentleness and compassion.

The earliest stories in Genesis and Exodus often portray God trying to form a relationship with the odd creatures that God has made in the divine image. Like any new relationship, it takes time. God gets angry but often relents.

Case in point: in the story of the flood we are told that God destroys everything except the creatures preserved in the ark. Yet immediately following, God places something in the sky as a reminder not to do this again. Curious thing, this reminder. Firstly, it is a bow. Not the kind of bow with which you might tie up a package, but the kind with which you might shoot arrows. “I'm putting it away”, God says. “I'm converting a weapon into a Technicolor thing of purest beauty”.

This is first and foremost a reminder to God. Yet we, of course, see the rainbow, too, and remember God's promise never to destroy the earth again. The question then becomes, how will we respond here on our side of the rainbow? Will we remember God's promise and embrace it as our own, or will we carry on with business as usual?




*The Lord's Supper will be
celebrated in worship on
Sunday, June 29.*

Vol. 64 No. 6
June/July 2008

From the Pastor	2
Molly's Musings	2
Library News	3
Mark's Remarks	4
Music Notes	5
Israeli Friendship Caravan	5
Presbyterian Women	6
Congratulation Graduates	6
New Members	7
Thanks: Holy Folders	7
Current Issues Class	7
Births	8
Marriage	8
Sympathy	8
Memorials	8
Lectionaries/Calendars	9

From the Pastor...

 In June 8 and 9 Catherine Purves will be our Festival of Faith speaker. I hope you will invite family and friends to enjoy this very special event.

The Rev. Purves is the pastor of Bellevue United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. She serves the borough of Bellevue as a police chaplain and is president of the Fellowship of Ministries, an ecumenical group of pastors and representatives from local social service agencies. She is a graduate of the College of Wooster, the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

In 2007, Catherine went to Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland on a Lilly-funded sabbatical to study an array of Christian communities. Her observations followed a long-held interest in the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

The Festival's theme is "The Holy Spirit and the Community of Faith." No subject could be more timely for Spring Hill. Let's pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will open our minds and hearts to the messages Catherine will give during her time with us.

Yours devotedly,
Norman

Molly's Musings "Not My Will"

I've been thinking a lot lately about my struggle with my will. Every time my 16 month old throws a temper tantrum, I feel God is once again illustrating all too clearly this ongoing battle I'm fighting between self will and His will.

Every day I walk out my front door with my two children to take them to school. Every day the same thing happens. Hammie (as we affectionately call Hampton) bolts through the open door, exhilarated to find himself free in the great outdoors until...mama approaches. I lovingly grab his hand and attempt to gently guide him to the car. He then proceeds to "go boneless" which is what Chris and I call that move I think every toddler knows in which their body goes limp and all their weight is used to counter your efforts. Today was no different. Open door. Unbridled glee. Mama attempts to guide. Then bonelessness. I hope you have a mental picture.

Holding just the hand of this wilted, 23 pound hunk of all boy, I thought, "How often do I do this to God?" He, like the gentle parent who knows best, guides me (through His word and through His Spirit) into His will. I, the spiritual toddler, with all my strength insist that my way is better. After the third or fourth tantrum, I lose my patience with Hammie, but then I wonder, "How many spiritual tantrums did I throw today?" I think of all the direction God has given me regarding the different areas of my life, and then I realize how quick I am to ignore the guidance He has revealed when it's hard or inconvenient.

In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." There's no provision for, "Obey this when it fits your

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

schedule. Do this when the time is right for you. Follow my commands because it's easy." Oh, Lord, how often do I go boneless when you put a cross before me to carry?

I'm reminded of the sermon Paul Murray gave on Youth Sunday. He eloquently told us that Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is the key to this struggle between self will and God's will. It is a prayer that I need to take to and speak often. I would be wise to assume His position too, "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as You will.**'"

I know we all have our agendas and motives. As we move through each day, we each have our own set of responsibilities and burdens, but I can't help but think how different the world would be if everyone started the day on their face, praying this prayer, and then committing to carrying the cross and following Jesus. Let's try it. If you feel so moved, cut out the prayer I have boxed for you below. Start each day with your face to the ground. If we are called to be like Jesus, this is just one more way we can emulate Him.

Let me know how it goes.

Affectionately,
Molly

**Lord,
May I live this day not as I will, but as You will. Give me strength to take up my cross and follow You. Amen.**

Library News



The church library is and can be a great resource for both you and your classes, but it is wise to contact the library staff as to your needs and usage as early as possible.

Perhaps we already have what you need but just might not; and we will need to order and process the material better to meet your time table.

Mid-week time with the staff can be arranged, but if your class will be on its own, alerting the librarian makes it possible to have materials assembled and set aside for quicker access.

Remember, library staff does take vacations and time off – so prepare ahead for better relations and quicker resources, contacting early to have the best results.

The important thing is neither your nationality nor the religion you professed, but how your faith translated itself in your life.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Mark's Remarks

As you may or may not know, the youth program will take on a new structure in the fall. Our youth program has been extremely fortunate and blessed to have two new interns working hand in hand with us through this exciting time of change and growth for the youth of Spring Hill. I would like to introduce to you both Ashley and Matt by having you read a brief sketch about God's calling on their life to this ministry.

Ashley Mueller

Attempting to unscramble the complex and amazing work of the Almighty has proved quite difficult for me, especially in the past few years; God has an uncanny ability to move my spirit in such an unexplainable and unfathomable way. This time last year, I was overwhelmed with the prospect of graduating from high school and venturing into the realms of college far away from home. These days I find myself attending the University of South Alabama and working as a youth intern here at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. I cannot begin to understand the will of God in the many transitions I have gone through, but I can comprehend the grace that is offered when I have chosen to follow in His footsteps. I pray that I might return some of the love and peace that Christ has so blindly bestowed on me through working with the youth of Spring Hill.

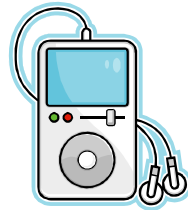
Matthew Godwin

While growing up here in Mobile, the thought of being in Youth Ministry let alone a Youth Intern was never on the forefront of my mind, but the Lord's plan is better and more sovereign than mine, so thankfully here I am now. I was fortunate enough to go on a mission trip and staff a Celebration weekend with Molly and Mark a few years ago. This allowed me to get to know the two of them and spend time with the amazing kids that are a part of this church. Through those experiences and others the Lord planted a seed in my heart for kids and Youth Ministry, and when this position presented itself I could not turn it down. Though it has only been a few months since I have been here, the families and kids of the church have been absolutely wonderful and amazing. The Lord could not have me in a better place right now than right here at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. I have been blessed tremendously through this experience, so far, and I am looking forward to being a part of what the Lord has in store for both his Church and his Youth Group.

These words are a small blip on the radar screen for their love and devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am extremely blessed to work with both Ashley and Matt and return thanks daily to God for opening the door allowing us to work together.

Devotedly,
Mark Coats

SHPC Sermon Podcasting Begins Soon¹



With the help of Dr. Bob Sweeney, we are planning to podcast our sermons, making available audio recordings through the Internet. Watch the bulletin and the church website for the launch date.

Summer Music Schedule

Our choirs are now on their summer schedules. All groups except the Chancel Choir are resting from their labors until after Labor Day, and the Chancel Choir is on a modified schedule.

July is the Chancel Choir's 2008 vacation time, when the dedicated singers who normally spend hours each week in rehearsal and worship are given time away from these responsibilities. Choir members who wish to do so may sit in the choir seats to support congregational singing, while soloists provide vocal voluntaries. We are grateful for these soloists, and for the dedicated service of the Chancel Choir members, and we wish for them a month of rest and refreshment.

¹ Editor's note: Podcast

(For those who may not be familiar with "podcasting".)

A **podcast** is a series of digital-media files which are distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on portable media players and computers. The term *podcast*, like *broadcast*, can refer either to the series of content itself or to the method by which it is syndicated; the latter is also called **podcasting**. The host or author of a podcast is often called a **podcaster**.

Though podcasters' web sites may also offer direct download or streaming of their content, a podcast is distinguished from other digital media formats by its ability to be syndicated, subscribed to, and downloaded automatically when new content is added, using an aggregator or feed reader capable of reading feed formats such as RSS or Atom.

Wikipedia

Israeli Friendship Caravan

Our friendship with the Jewish community continues! The Israeli Friendship Caravan consists of seventeen year-olds who criss-cross North America each summer and share their lives in Israel through song, dance and humor. They perform in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. We are fortunate that they will entertain our congregation in June. Ages 1 – 100 will love this high-energy program. Join us on June 16 at 12 noon in the Bullard Building.

Pentecost Offering

The total received from the Pentecost Offering for the Presbyterian Children's Home in Talladega was \$2,131.00.

Presbyterian Women's News

On Wednesday, May 7, the following officers for the Presbyterian Women of our congregation were installed:

Presbyterian Women Officers 2008-2009



Moderator	Emily Watson
Secretary	Linda Fletcher
Treasurer	Sylvia Weinard
Historians	Gwin Williams, Rita Langus
Bible Study Leader	Ann Jung
Advisory Board	Tracy Shreve, Amy Walton

Circle Chairs:

Circle 1	Janie Sims, Mary Hazen Braswell
Circle 2	Corinne March, Nancy McCrummen
Circle 3	Cassie Steele
Circle 4	Ellen Pitman, Maxine Miller

Life Membership Committee:

Lila Dexter, Ellen Pitman, Amy Walton

The Alabama Mississippi Conference will be held July 22-25 in Birmingham.

Congratulations to our Graduates



High School:

Carrie Boone, Carmen Chambers, Laura Crow, Richard Enikeieff, Taylor Gamble, Drew Hennig, Katherine Hill, Robert Hofto, Ashley Hudson, Jordan Minton, Jacque Moor, Paul Murray, Mason Parker, Ryan Sheets, Rachel Walton, Kristin Warhurst, Adam Weinacker, Ashley Wikle

College:

Robert Shreve graduated from Rhodes College and will be attending the University of Alabama Law School in the Fall. Laura Martino graduated from Furman University and will attend Nursing School at Emory. Gray Weinacker will graduate from Southern Miss in August and will be pursuing an MBA.

Welcome to our New Members:

Dr. Amy Morris
1086 Southern Way Ct.
Mobile, AL 36609
342-8449

Larry, Renee & Haley Kirby
9935 Bellingrath Rd.
Theodore, AL 36582
973-2606

Grace Reid
2901 Grant St.
Mobile AL 36606
473-2451

Steve Forwood
10010 Dominion Drive N.
Mobile, AL 36695
639-0137

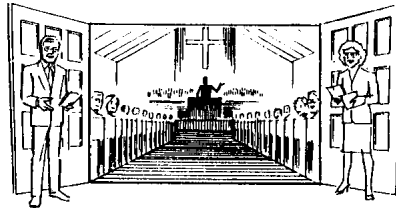
Ryan Mahtani
5619 James Monroe Court
Mobile, AL 36693
663-1891

Elizabeth (Lisa) Marston
10 Buerger Road
Mobile, AL 36608
343-0440

Ashley Mueller
1130 E. Newbury Lane
Mobile, AL 36695

J. Gaines Betbeze
201 S. Fulton St.
Mobile, AL 36606
478-0487

Basil and Becky Smith
3801 Traveler Drive
Saraland, AL 36571
679-0900



Welcome to Our Congregation



“Holy Folders”

Each month we have a wonderful group of volunteers we call the “Holy Folders” who fold our newsletter and sort them for mailing. Many, many thanks to Linda Fletcher, Mary Lou Kopf, Doris McGowan, Harriett Pennington, Donna Smith, Ruth Coats, Linda Langston, Edith Cox, Lucille Carpenter, Duncan and Frances McDonald. Your service to the church is greatly appreciated.

Current Issues Sunday School Class

A few of our classes include: John Turner: “Bill Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ”, Virginia Price: “How Would Jesus Vote?”, Billy McLean: “God’s Politics”, and Judy Stout: “Stewardship of the Environment”. Our studies continue through June, and we will begin at 8:45 a.m. We are adults of all ages whose focus is upon current issues and interests as they relate to our faith, our life, and the church. Join us for variety, challenge, critical thinking and stimulating discussion.



We rejoice with Mac and Ginger Otts in the birth of twin grandchildren, Octavius McCrary (Mac) Otts V and Elizabeth Sanders (Ella) Otts. Great Grandfather is Dr. O. M. Otts, Jr. Parents are Elizabeth Sanders Otts and O. McCrary Otts IV.



We rejoice with Dick and Sherry Coats in the marriage of their daughter, Caron, to Frank Lassiter on May 10, in Birmingham.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Frankie Jernigan in the death of her son, Marc, on May 6 in Thailand and with the family of Katherine Caine in her death on May 12 in Birmingham.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Bob Trainor
Burns and Sammie Moore
Hap Jernigan
Frances Curry
Sherwood Harrison
Ann Broughton
Martha Zundel
Bill Wharton
Elmer Boyd
Serena Minton
Mike Kopf
John Mincy
Katherine Caine

From the following:

Dr. O. M. Otts, Jr.
Joseph and Robin Thetford
Charles and Linda Langston
Roy and Sue Martino
Martha McCarty

Betty Smitherman
Lila Dexter
Linda Fletcher
Craig and Betty McKinnon
Mike and Nancy Hofto
Bob and Carolyn Adams
Susan Huddle
Dr. and Mrs. D. C. Beville
Gail and Roy Kennedy
St. Paul's Episcopal School
D. L. Minton
Charlotte Quinn
Catherine Zuinn Bolton
Iris and Nate Ginsberg
Suzy and Craig Ginsberg
Hieronymus, Gaillard & Jones, LLC
Artcraft Press, Inc.
America's Junior Miss
Doris McGowan
Bruce and Barbara Maynard
Jim and Janella Pollard
Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Grimsley, Jr.
Mrs. Robert Shaw
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanders

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

June 2008

- 1 *9th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Ps. 46;
Rom. 1:16-17, 3:22b-28 (29-31);
Matt. 7:21-29
- 8 *10th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 12:1-9; Ps. 33:1-12; Rom. 4:13-25
Matt. 9:9-13, 18-26
- 15 *11th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 18:1-15 (21:1-7);
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19
Rom. 5:1-8; Matt. 9:35-10:8 (9-23)
- 22 *12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 21:8-21; Ps. 86:1-10, 16-17
Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt. 10:24-39
- 29 *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 22:1-14; Ps. 13; Rom. 6:12-23
Matt. 10:40-42

July 2008

- 6 *14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Ps. 45:10-17 or S. of Sol. 2:8-13;
Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30
- 13 *15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112;
Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23
- 20 *16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24
Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
- 27 *17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Gen. 29:15-28; Ps. 105:1-11, 45b or
Ps. 128; Rom. 8:26-39;
Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

Church Calendar

June 2008

- 3 Committees
8-9 Festival of Faith
10 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
16 Israeli Singers & Dancers –
Noon in Bullard Building
17 Session – 7:00 p.m.
29 Communion
Senior High trip to Ruston, LA

July 2008

- 3-4 Church Office closed
13 Lay Sunday
21 Journeys of Faith Training –
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
Junior High (Great Escape) trip
22-25 AL/MS Conference in Birmingham
24 Youth Leader Training –
6:00-8:00 p.m.
28-29 VBS Training and Decorating Days –
10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Too much time on his hands?

In the 16th century a priest at Rheims Cathedral in France summarized the entire Bible in Latin, and in each of the 23 chapters omitted a different letter of the alphabet.

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers
and catnip coolers for Ti Amo
and Al E. Cat.

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*June - July
Newsletter*

A detailed black and white illustration of a small bird perched on a branch, surrounded by a dense arrangement of various flowers and leaves. The illustration is framed by a simple rectangular border.

May
the Lord
direct your
hearts
into
God's
love.....

2 Thessalonians 3:5