

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian
Church

Vol. 65

No. 6

June 2009

From the Pastor's Desk...

Please put on your calendar the dates for Festival of Faith: July 26 and 27. Our speaker will be Dr. Richard A. Ray of Montreat, North Carolina. Born in New Orleans in 1936, and reared in Atlanta, Dr. Ray holds degrees from Dartmouth College and Princeton Theological Seminary. His Ph.D. is from the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland. He has served as a pastor in Arkansas, Virginia, and Tennessee. From 1972-1981 he was the Managing Director of the John Knox Press. He has also held the Robert Meneilly Professorship for Leadership and Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Since 2001, he has been the Vice President and General Editor of Kerygma Bible Studies.

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, July 10th, Dr. Ray will present four lectures/sermons on the impact Calvin has had on our social, theological, and spiritual development as Christians. He will bring to us a fresh understanding of Calvin's core beliefs and how those beliefs can help us in living in an increasingly secular society.

A scholar of the first rank, Dr. Ray is a speaker who captivates, challenges, and delights. Upon hearing him, you will be very glad you set aside July 26 and 27 for this particular Festival.

Let us keep Dr. Ray in our prayers as he prepares to come to Spring Hill. And let us not forget to pray for one another as we strive to go deeper in our faith.

In His love,
Norman

A HUGE THANKS TO DAN AND LAURA

For twenty years, Dan Sellers has edited and designed our monthly newsletter, first with the help of Nita and then with Laura. As a congregation, we have benefited greatly through the generosity of time and talent given by the Sellers. After two decades, they believe it's time to retire from this particular service which, of course, we understand, and we send to them our deepest thanks for a job superbly done.

By the time you receive the August newsletter, the Sellers will have passed the baton to Melissa Root. We're *very* grateful that she will pick up what the Sellers have done so ably; and to her we send our thanks as well.

See editors' note on Page 6

Molly's Musings

"You Have to Grow Up...Even If You Don't Wannooo!"

I didn't see this coming. I didn't expect to experience these emotions, but I have to admit, I'm downright sad. Today is Hannah's last day of PK-3 and the end of her time at the preschool she's attended since she was one. Next year she'll begin "big girl, real school" as she calls it. I've bought her uniforms. We're excited. We're ready to go. So why am I so sad?

Maybe it's fear of the unknown. Maybe it's because she's grown up in the halls of Westminster's Mothers' Day Out. Maybe it's because that school has been so good to us, and it has been a safe and secure place for us for so many years. Maybe it's all of these things, but one thing's for sure: my little girl's not so little any more. Obviously, growing older is an inescapable part of life. We all grow up. We all move on. It's a physical law that can't be broken. If you think about it rationally, why would you want it any other way? I mean, who really wants to change diapers for eternity...or wear them for that matter?!?!?!?

I was pondering all these things as I drove from Westminster to the church this morning when the Holy Spirit happened to bring to mind the Scriptures I read last night. Believe it or not, they speak truth to this mother's heart.

I Peter 2:2

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow up** in your salvation.*

Hebrews 5:12-14

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

As I read these Scriptures and ponder the change that is taking place right in front of me, I can't help but wonder if there is a spiritual lesson to be gleaned from watching this inevitable maturation process. These Scriptures seem to point to the truth of God's desire for spiritual growth. Just as our physical bodies change and mature, so too, should our faith. Think about the perfect order in which we go from infants to toddlers, to grade schoolers, to teenagers, to young adults, to middle-aged, to elderly. In the same way, the more we study, the more we pray, the more we obey, the more we live in community, the more we serve, the more we grow and mature in faith. Spiritual growth is orderly and orchestrated by God as much as our physical growth, but there's a catch. We must be willing and active participants in our spiritual growth. I sense irritation on the part of the author of the Hebrew text. It is as if the writer is saying, "Get it in gear! You should already be way past where you are now. Get busy growing in your faith! QUIT dragging your feet!"

So why do we drag our feet about spiritual growth? Is it for the same reason that we grieve that our children grow older? Are we too comfortable and secure where we are presently? Are we afraid of change? Or are we just too lazy and take opportunities to grow in faith for granted? Whatever the reason, know this: God is committed to our spiritual growth. Will you embrace the opportunities you are given to grow in faith and trust that all of them are a part of His perfect plan? If the answer is "yes", you can be sure you're well on your way to growing up!

In Christ,
Molly Broders

Concert

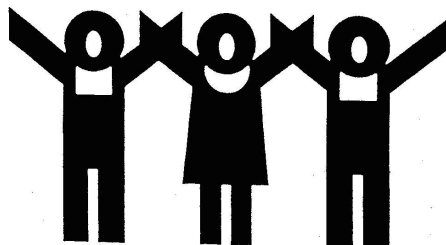
The Wesleyan Youth Choir

from First United Methodist Church, Athens, Georgia
In our Sanctuary

Sunday night, June 7, 7:00 p.m.

Come hear this talented group of young people as they sing the first concert on their week-long tour which will take them to New Orleans and Galveston.

Auditions for the Choirs of Mobile's Singing Children (Susan Hoitt, Director)



The four choirs of Mobile's Singing Children, which rehearse at our church, are holding auditions for the 2009-2010 season. To arrange an audition, contact director Susan Hoitt at 342-1550, ext. 12 (leave a message) or email her at mobilesingingchildren@gmail.com.



*The Lord's Supper will be celebrated
in worship on June 28.*

Presbyterian Women's News

On Wednesday, May 13, the following officers for the Presbyterian Women of our congregation were installed:

Presbyterian Women Officers 2009-2010

Moderator	Emily Watson
Moderator-Elect	Ernestine McElroy
Treasurer	Sylvia Weinard
Historians	Rita Langus Jimmie Hatcher
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, Edith Abrams

2009 Life Membership Committee:

Marcy Harris, Kaye Mims, Edie Cox

The Alabama/Mississippi Conference will be July 21-24 in Starkville.

Presbyterian Children's Home

Too early to think about Christmas cards? Well, don't wait too long or you will miss the ordering deadline for free shipping offered by the Women's Circle Coordinating Team.

Presbyterian Children's Home is again using Christmas card sales as a fund raiser. The cards (all the same picture) come 10 to a box for \$12/box & are printed on stock paper. One of the children painted the selected picture of a gentle white Christmas tree (there was a contest) and the verse says "Wishing you peace, love and joy this Christmas Season". A sub verse says "Be still, and know that I am God."

To place an order, combine the total sum of money corresponding to the number of boxes you want, include your name, and put all into an envelope addressed to Sylvia Weinard. Drop the envelope into the Presbyterian Women's box (upper left hand corner) in the office adjoining Sallie Connell's office. The deadline to order is July 1, 2009.



Stephen Ministry plans to begin a new training class of Stephen Ministers either late August or early September. If you feel this ministry is for you, but you have questions or concerns, please come by the Bride's Room Sunday, May 31st, after the 10:00 a.m. service and we will be happy to discuss this ministry with you. Or, if you are unable to attend a meeting, but are interested in joining the class, please call Margaret Miller (344-3937).

Library News

Biblical Folklore or Historical Fact?

At the very heart of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam lies the story of the Exodus, the epic tale of plagues, miracles, and revelations. But the truth behind these events has been obscured by faith and time---until now.

With the help of renowned archeologists, Egyptologists, geologists and theologians new light is shed on this momentous event. This is pointed out on the History channel's 92 minute *The Exodus Decoded* which offers a virtual account of stories which reveal the difference between acts of nature and the hand of God. It is ready for distribution.



Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to *Kristin Rice Mahtani* on being selected Teacher of the Year at Dodge Elementary School!



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Troop 85 meets in our Edington Building on Monday evenings and is always open to new scouts. Contact Scoutmaster Howard Horne (666-7490; hhorne@earthlink.net) or church/troop liaison Randy Sheets at the church for more information.

Welcome to our New Members

Shirley Ondrick
3570 Eric Drive
Semmes, AL 36575
645-7453

Nancy Watts
10705 Hunters Court W.
Mobile, AL 36695
634-4954

WE need your help!

The church is planning to expand the communication tools available to it by updating and expanding its e-mail directory (electronic mail). Please call the church office with your primary individual e-mail address by which you would like to be contacted. Thank you for your help.



Congratulations to our Graduates



High School: John Crabtree, Frank Deming, Margaret Ann Dexter, Robert Stephen Dill, Vivian Dudley, Sarah Elizabeth Jordan, Matthew Lord, Catherine Bailey Magee, Kaycee Leigh McFalls, Jessica Steen

College: Margaret Montalban, Auburn University

Thanks to the “Holy Folders”

We are greatly indebted to our wonderful “Holy Folders”. These are our dedicated volunteers who assemble, fold and sort our monthly newsletters for mailing. Many, many thanks to Linda Fletcher (Coordinator), Mary Lou Kopf, Doris McGowan, Harriett Pennington, Donna Smith, Ruth Coats, Linda Langston, Edith Cox, Duncan and Frances McDonald, and Janie Sims. Your service to the church is greatly appreciated.



Also greatly appreciated are Edith Abrams and Eva Macon, who assemble our weekly bulletins and Mary Hazen Braswell who is office assistant during our staff meetings.

A note from the editors

In April 1989 Vernon Hunter asked Nita and me if we would be interested in editing the church newsletter. We agreed and the June 1989 newsletter was our first one. We did not have “desktop publishing” software at the time so we used a “cut-and-paste” procedure with WordPerfect. We received the newsletter on mostly handwritten pages and typed all the articles until the church installed computers. Sallie came to our rescue and began typing the articles for us. I then went by the church and copied the files onto a 3.5 inch disk.

With the advent of desktop publishing software, we were then able to format text and insert graphics without cutting and pasting. Thanks to Sallie, editing the newsletter became much faster and easier. We decided to name the newsletter the *Spring Hill Messenger*. Chad Weinard drew a sketch of the church and we used it for the masthead. Vernon sent us a cartoon of a cat sitting on a computer and we started using it as a logo.

Because of the limitations of copying the newsletter, we have not been able to use photographs. However, there was one issue with photographs: the *Special Edition* done for June 1997 celebrating Vernon Hunter’s retirement (you can get this issue from the church’s web site—www.shpc.us—in “Newsletters” select—June 5, 2009). Royce Ray kindly agreed to print it with the photographs that I made at Vernon’s retirement and then scanned.

In 2003 Laura started editing the newsletter with me. She managed the proofreading and correcting and started contributing the “cat quotes” for the editors’ note in consultation with Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Some newsletter trivia: when I retired from USA, Laura and I had a chance to do some extensive traveling. On several occasions Sallie emailed the articles to us while we were on the road. We then put the newsletter together, created a PDF and emailed it back to Sallie, and then uploaded it to SHPC's web site. Two interesting incidents - we did one newsletter in Death Valley National Park and Yosemite National Park (at night because the scenery was too distracting during the day!)

Another was done while we were returning from Canada and were on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We were spending a couple of days in the Shenandoah National Park at Big Meadows. We had gotten the articles from Sallie earlier but there was no internet connection in Big Meadows. We finished the newsletter and drove about 30 miles back up the Blue Ridge Parkway to a small town in northern Virginia. We stopped at a little cafe to have lunch and, while chatting with the owner, we mentioned that we were looking for someplace with internet connection to email the church newsletter to SHPC. It just so happened that he was a member of the local Presbyterian church and also had a wireless connection in the cafe. He turned it on for us and we sent the newsletter to Sallie.

After 20 years of preparing the newsletter, we have decided to retire. Melissa Root has kindly agreed to take over the newsletter and will begin with the August issue. Laura and I want to say a special thanks to Sallie Connell, Ginny Thompson and the "Holy Folders" (see Page 6) for all their help over the years. Thanks also to all who have written articles and notes for the newsletter. Editing the newsletter has been a "labor of love" and an honor and privilege for us to do this for SHPC.

Ti Amo and Al E. Cat hope that your catnip will grow by leaps and bounds and your food bowl will always be overflowing.

A final cat quote:

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers, along with Ti Amo and Al E. Cat, bid farewell to Spring Hill and wish the very best to Melissa as she begins her journey with the Spring Hill Messenger.

Email: Dan: dansel251@att.net
Laura: 512handbells@att.net



Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day is celebrated in June in the vast number of the world's countries. The idea for the day began in Spokane, Washington. While listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd thought how much she would like to honor her father. The month of June was chosen for the simple fact that that was the month of her father's birth.

June 19, 1910, was the first Father's Day. While Dodd primarily wanted to honor this selfless man who had raised her and five others after their mother died in childbirth, the popularity of the day soon spread. The date was firmly planted in many people's minds before President Richard Nixon established the permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June.

Unlike Mother's Day - which began as a day for mothers to work for peace - this day has always been one simply for recognizing the good gifts of fathers. This, of course, is not always the case, as there are fathers who do not care for children. Yet for each of us, there are those men who have provided - and continue to provide - wisdom beyond measure, wise counsel, and will toss a ball at a moment's notice.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Frank Dagley in the death of his mother, Elizabeth Dagley, on May 5 in Sumter, SC; with Lewis Shreve in the death of his mother, Mavis Widney Shreve, on May 6; and with the family of Kathryn Lee on her death on May 17.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Ruth Diehl Rhodes
John B. Waterman II

From the following:

Joe & Foncie Bullard
Edith Cox
Pat & Royce Ray
Mrs. R. O. Laffre
Charles & Linda Langston
Buck & Joelyne Trehern
Billy & Sue McLean
Bob & Ginger Callahan
Aileen Lott

Harry & Wardlyn Bassler
Larry & Nancy Sims
Mike & Nancy Hofto
Fontaine Nolan
Duncan & Frances McDonald
Ann M. Crow
Leigh & Alvin Ratliff
John & Catherine Mincy
Hilary Cabaniss
Janie Sims
Stony & Virginia Price
Robert & Mary Ann Donnell
Sam & Judy Strada
Ruth Fitzgerald
Heyard & Ann Clarke
Stacy & Jim Newman

Honorarium

An Honorarium has been received for Wagon and Meagher Whigham
from Mrs. James L. Cox

God doesn't look at how much we do, but
with how much love we do it.

– Mother Theresa

Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask,
“Where have I gone wrong?” Then a voice
says to me, “This is going to take more than
one night.”

– Charlie Brown

Table Grace

God of goodness, bless our food,
Keep us in a cheerful mood.
Bless the cook and all who serve us.
From indigestion, God, preserve us. Amen.

(From an Anglican monastery kitchen at Brisbane,
Australia.)

Lectioary for the Lord's Day

June 2009

- 7 *Trinity Sunday*
Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17;
John 3:1-17
- 14 *11th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Sam. 15:34-16:13; Ps. 20
2 Cor. 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17;
Mark 4:26-34
- 21 *12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Sam. 17⊕1a, 4-11, 19_23) 32-49 and
Ps. 99-20; or 1 Sam. 17:57-18:5, 10-16
and Ps. 133; 2 Cor. 6:1-13;
Mark 4:35-41
- 28 *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130;
2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

July 2009

- 5 *14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48;
2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
- 12 *15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24;
Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
- 19 *16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37;
Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- 26 *17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

Church Calendar

June 2009

- 1, 2, 3 VBS
2 Committees
4 First Thursday Lunch
7 Concert – 7:00 p.m.
1st United Methodist choir
from Athens, GA
9 Diaconate
15 Junior High Great Escape trip
to Cleveland, TN
17 Session – 7:00 p.m.
28 Communion
Youth Mission Trip to
Savannah, GA

July 2009

- 3 Church office closed
7 Committees
12 Lay Sunday
20 Senior High trip to Branson, MO
Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
21-24 AL/Ms Women's
Conference in Starkville
26-27 Festival of Faith

A teacher asked children about their parents. One child said, "my mother's Catholic and my father is Jewish."

"That's interesting," the teacher responded. "So what do you believe?"

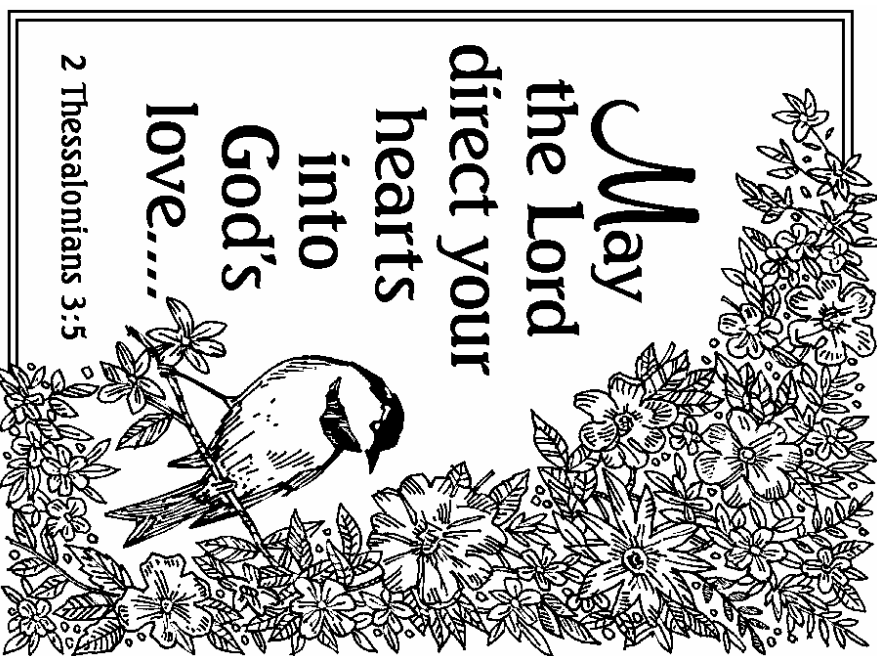
"I believe in everything," the child replied.

"Really?" the teacher said. "What do you mean by 'everything'?"

"Santa Claus, Hanukkah, the tooth fairy, the Easter bunny – anything that brings good stuff."

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
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*June - July
Newsletter*