

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 61

March 2005

No. 3

From the Pastor...

Put on your calendar if you haven't already April 8-10, **Festival of Faith**. Travis Crim will be here from Los Angeles to speak and entertain and inspire us. This will be the first Festival, as far as I know, in which the youth of our church *and* community will find a very special place. Travis connects with every age group, but he has an extraordinary rapport with youth. I hope you'll pass that information to your children and grandchildren.

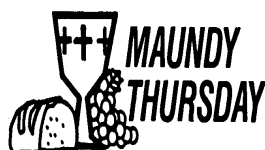
Travis played football for the University of Alabama from 1993-1997. His stories about those years are memorable to say the least; but then any story he tells is unforgettable. He has quite a gift in that department as well as in acting. Travis has a ministry to those seeking faith in the entertainment industry and works, as well, with Christians who are considering acting or broadcasting as a career. For over fifteen years he worked directly with youth, often in a camp setting but more often in churches. He's a 'regular' speaker at JH Ranch in California (a number of Mobilians have attended JH Ranch, several from our church). He spoke at Outback last October (which was held on David Pilot's farm west of the airport).

One of the most engaging parts of the Festival will be his skits. They are very funny and yet very poignant. He shows how drama has a special role in faith development and enjoyment.

Again the dates are April 8-10, Friday and Saturday nights, Sunday morning and Sunday night. Help your church spread the word.

Yours in Christ,
Norman

P.S. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, "My Advocate", a local Christian band & singing group, will lead in the musical portion of the service: not on Sunday morning but each evening. This is a dynamic group and we're fortunate to have them on such an exciting occasion.



Tom's Tidbits

God is tugging on the hearts of many of our congregation. We are responding to His calling by filling leadership and ministry rolls within our Christian Education programs.

Our newly commissioned Children's Ministry Team (CMT) comprised of Emily Watson (chair), Ann Jung, Meagher Whigham, Donna Hoffman, Ellen Jones, Marty O'Gwynn, Michelle Dickerson, Kelsey Christmas and Kelly Lamberth has moved forward on several fronts.

- 1) Planning for the Festival for Children slated for April 8-10 is underway with co-directors Kelsey Christmas and Meagher Whigham.
- 2) Vacation Bible School (VBS) co-directors, Marty O'Gwynn and Kelley Lamberth have announced August 1-5 to be the dates for VBS at Spring Hill this summer. We will reach out to the surrounding community this year and encourage their participation as well as include pre-K and K in the universe of students.
- 3) Six members of the CMT will be attending a national children's ministry conference sponsored by the Willow Creek Association in Barrington, IL March 9-11. This conference brings together children's ministry leaders and teachers from across the country "in a unified commitment to help each other grow stronger and more effective in the Kingdom mission we share". We are making a substantial commitment to train the trainers as we seek to enhance and expand our children's Christian education program at Spring Hill.

The Wednesday Night Family Series has resumed with Norman teaching a Lenten series on "Christianity's Response to Islam".

Understanding the Bible will begin its in-depth study of the New Testament on Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. If interested in attending, please talk with Tom.

The Gospel of John in Film is a multi-media adult Bible Study experience, led by Tom. We meet on Sunday mornings in the Large Parlor. This study will go through March 27.

The 4 S's: a basic primer in evangelism taught by Philip Jung in the Large Parlor will start on March 27 and go through April 24.

The February newsletter outlined many opportunities for putting your spiritual gifts to work. Those needs still exist for Next Generation Shepherds, VBS volunteers, Journeys of Faith teachers, and Ministry team members for both the Adult and Children's teams. In what direction are you being lead to serve God? Talk to Tom about where you would like to serve.

(Note: Bruce Weinard has written Tom's Tidbits while Tom is on a week's dissertation writing sabbatical. Our prayers are for a successful writing experience!)

Molly's Musings
"I am weak, but He is strong."

They said having a baby would change our lives forever. *They* said there's no way to be completely prepared. *They* said it would rock our world. Well, it hasn't taken us long to figure out, *they* were right! While Hannah has permanently altered our lives for the better, I must confess this post partum period has been stressful to say the least.

This past Wednesday, I found myself in desperate need to have some part of my life return to normal so I called my mom and asked her to keep Hannah while I ran to church to speak to the youth momentarily after Wednesday night Bible study. Not wanting to interrupt the lesson in progress, I sat outside the door and listened until it was over. Before I knew it, I found myself crying as a wave of all the emotions I have been experiencing swept over me. Never before in my life can I recall feeling such doubt, insecurity, depression, and lack of self confidence as I have in the last few weeks since Hannah's birth. Sitting outside that door I began to run through the list of questions I have had in my heart, but this time I began presenting them to God. God, what have I done? I know You have called me to be a Youth Director, but I don't feel called to be a mom. What do I do? Will I ever be able to return to work? How will I feed Hannah and care for her and do my job? I don't feel equipped to be a mom. Will You help me? Will I ever feel normal again? I am supposed to be happy so why am I so sad? In a nutshell, I felt so weak, so vulnerable, and so incapable. My whole world has changed, and I find myself in utter confusion about where I fit and what to do.

In the depths of despair, the Holy Spirit brought back a wonderful Scripture to my memory. Gently and tenderly, I could hear the words Christ spoke to Paul (recorded in 2 Corinthians 12:8) echo in my head and run through my heart, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Paul goes on to conclude after these words have been spoken to him, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

So why am I writing to you and revealing to you the deepest emotions I have experienced in my 30 years? Not so you can worry about me or wonder why I lack perspective given I have been blessed with a beautiful baby girl. No, I write of these feelings because I, like Paul, am learning to delight in this new weakness motherhood has brought to my life. God is teaching me utter dependence on Him to answer those questions in my heart about my life and my future. When I find myself in the hormonal, post partum depths of distress, I can feel Christ pressing me into Himself where my doubt and insecurity are transformed by His power into confidence about my role as a mother. It is my challenge each day to get up and deal with these emotions with a Christ like perspective. When I am tempted to give in to the doldrums, I must shift my focus from my weakness to Christ's strength.

There is no doubt we all have difficulties and trials in our lives. I pray that you will learn

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

from Paul before the difficulties in your life arise. When we are weak, He is strong. Knowing this eternal truth will transform your perspective and your life. His grace *is* sufficient for you and for me and for whatever hardship that comes our way. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Molly

P.S. I wanted to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards, and meals you have provided for us over the last few weeks. You have welcomed Hannah into “the family” with such affection and generosity. Chris and I are profoundly touched by and extremely grateful for your outpouring of love.

Presbyterian Women’s news

Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, March 9 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Clayton Pennington (4310 Marquette Drive)
- #2 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Marty O’Gwynn (612 Chelsea Drive East)
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor

The 18th annual spring Gathering will be Thursday, March 17 at Spring Hill. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and registration. Lunch will be served in the Bullard Building at noon. Our guest speaker is going to be Rev. Pierre Burns who will portray Pontius Pilot. Registration forms are on the hall table. Please make reservations by March 11.



Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

- Palm Sunday (March 20: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)
- Maundy Thursday (March 24: 7:00 p.m.) Service of Holy Communion
- Good Friday (March 25: 12 Noon)
- Easter Sunday (March 27: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.) The Resurrection of Our Lord

Global Mission donations

The Global Mission Committee approved sending the Livingstonia Theological College, a Presbyterian college in Malawi, Africa, with 25 ministerial students who hope to graduate in October, \$600 to help support the program. The 20 married students receive \$25 allowances per month; the single students receive \$20 each.

The committee also approved \$2,000 for five I.M.A. Medicine Boxes for the tsunami disaster relief. Each box is designated to provide medicine for ongoing health care for community clinics and small hospitals for 2 to 3 months. Each box carried medical products valued at about \$3,000 thanks, primarily to donated medicines and supplies from pharmaceutical companies and products that I.M.A. purchases at discounted rates.

One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing gives us the opportunity to share God's gift with people in need. We ask your prayers for this annual offering which will take place on Palm Sunday and Easter. These gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, self-development, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Special envelopes will be in the pews.

Bay Area Food Bank

PLEASE HELP!!! The Bay Area Food Bank provides food to the ill, needy, elderly, children, and the homeless without charge. Spring Hill Presbyterian is a strong supporter for this worthy organization. Please remember to bring canned goods to donate to the Food Bank, and place them in the bins in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Remember, hunger never takes a holiday!

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.

Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all children! Children's Services and Activities will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on March 19, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. with lunch and activities. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be outside the nursery or call the church office. Also, please indicate on the sheet if you can provide candy.

Festival of Faith

Festival of Faith will be held Friday through Sunday night, April 8 - 10.

Library News



Museum and exhibit gift shops are tempting collections for a librarian. The following have been added to the church collection following a visit to the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit: DVD: DEUTERONOMY IN DIXIE, the film shown to those visiting the exhibit at the Exploreum; CDs are DEAD SEA SCROLLS (Hebrew and Arabic music by contemporary composers); ANCIENT WORDS (songs inspired by the Dead Sea Scrolls); JEWISH ODYSSEY (a celebration of Jewish music around the world).

The Quilters, who meet every Tuesday here at church, are in need of a quilt top to put on the frame. If you have one ready to quilt, please call Jane Moser at 639-9936 or bring it to the Bullard Building any Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. and noon.

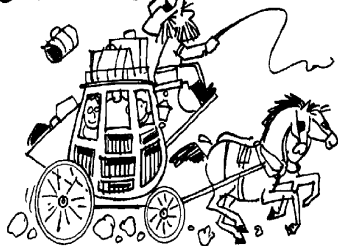


Senior Outreach

If you are planning a trip and have room in your car for a passenger or two, would you be happy to have the company? Of course, you would!

If you need a ride, would you appreciate someone letting you share their journey? Of course!

SENIORS on the MOVE



The Senior Outreach Committee has posted a small "Need-A-Ride/Share-A-Ride" board in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall where you can let members of SHPC know of your travel plans or of your desire to go somewhere. Please use the index cards provided to give your name, destination, travel dates, and phone number. Participating parties can work out the details.

We hope this idea will be beneficial to our Seniors and to other members as well.

Pontius' Puddle

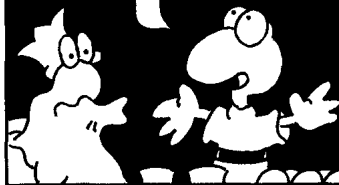
AREN'T THE DAYS BEFORE EASTER CHEERY?



I SUPPOSE, IF YOU CALL THE MEMORY OF HOW CHRIST WAS-



CROWNED WITH THORNS, NAILED TO A CROSS, SPEARED IN THE SIDE, AND LEFT TO DIE, CHEERY.



SORT OF TAKES THE THRILL OUT OF COLORING EGG'S, DOESN'T IT?



Service Center

The Service Center is in need of cleaning supplies to give their clients; these items are not available at the Food Bank and therefore must be purchased retail. Laundry soap, dish soap, scouring pads, heavy duty cleaners, etc. are needed. Please be sure tops of liquids are secure and put in plastic bags to prevent accidents when items are placed in the barrel in the hallway.



The Curiosity Shop on Cottage Hill Road, just east of I-65 can use your knick-knacks, dishes, small furniture, etc. This re-sale shop uses proceeds to help with operating expenses of the Service Center. Volunteers are needed to help at the shop, half-days or more. Call Nancy at 471-3030 if you are interested.

Victory Health Partners

Victory Health Partners is a non-profit health care organization founded by Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Lightfoot to provide health care to individuals who cannot afford private medical insurance but do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. The organization works to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their clients through their dedicated staff and network of medical and non-medical volunteers. A recent brochure for Victory Health Partners says, "As stated in the name Victory Health Partners, Victory is truly a community partnership of people from diverse background banding together in friendship and love to heal fellow citizens of the greater Mobile area." If you know anyone who needs Victory's service, please have them call 460-0999 to schedule a qualifying appointment. Patients who qualify and are determined to be eligible for the program, pay fees for medical services, dispensary, and lab work based on income, family size, and other circumstances. Walk-in appointments are available if needed.

Over 50 million Americans do not have health insurance. About 100,000 of them live in the greater Mobile area. 8 out of 10 uninsured Americans are from working families; uninsured Americans come from every race, age and ethnic group.

Needs: (1) Volunteers of donated services by physicians and dentists; (2) financial donations from individuals, churches, businesses, civic groups and foundations.

For more information or to volunteer: email kmager@victoryhealth.org, call Margaret Jordan at 460-0999 or visit www.victoryhealth.org.

Evans Greenhouse News

Nancy Hartley will be honored at a Retirement Coffee on April 6 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to wish her well as we meet in her classroom at Augusta Evans School. (Questions – Gwin Williams 342-2699)

How fair and lovely is the hope that the Lord gave to the dead when he lay down beside them. Rise up and come forth and sing praise to him who has raised you from destruction.

- Syrian Orthodox Liturgy

From the Worship Committee

NOTE: Several members of our congregation reported that the page containing this announcement was omitted in their issues of last month's newsletter. There may be others who did not see this. The Worship Committee is asking for additional input from those who may be interested in having assisted listening devices in the sanctuary.

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:

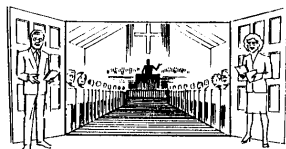
Welcome to our new members:

Lesley West
34802 Pond Rd.
Stapleton, AL 36578

Bin Langus
5158 Border Dr. N.
Mobile, AL 36608

Linda Whinery
1705 Rustic Wood Court
Mobile, AL 36609
661-5587

Walinda Phiri-Alleman
7301 Vickers Lane
Mobile, AL 36695
633-5009



**Welcome to Our
Congregation**

Positive Aging Workshop

Saying “Yes” to Growing Older

Please join us for an interdenominational workshop on “Positive Aging” to be held Saturday, April 23rd at our church in the Bullard Building from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This workshop, sponsored by your Stephen Ministers, is a result of an article that appeared in the October, 2004 issue of *Presbyterian Voice*. The workshop is open to all who want to come. If you would like information concerning the workshop, copies of the article that appeared in *Presbyterian Voice* are on the table in the back hall of the church.

The facilitators for the workshop are Cinny Poppen and Roger Golden of Ashland City, Tennessee. Cinny and Roger are certified workshop leaders by the Spiritual Eldering Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Cinny is an educator with experience in Central America, Haiti, as well as the U. S. in justice activism. She is also a hospice volunteer. Roger is an ordained minister with experience in long term care chaplaincy. He has studied at the Gerontological Pastoral Care Institute in St. Paul and trained as a spiritual director while attending seminary. Together Cinny and Roger bring an enthusiasm for and awareness of aging issues with a passion for hanging the prevailing view that aging is a bad thing. Don’t miss this program!

There is a \$10.00 fee for the workshop which includes lunch. To register, please fill out the form below and return with your check made out to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, by April 18th.

We hope you will join us. Thank you.

detach

Positive Aging Workshop

Name: _____ #people _____

Phone # _____ ChurchAffiliation: _____

Address _____

Please mail form and check to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, 10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL 36608 to the attention of Margaret Miller or Faye Cauley, Stephen Ministers. For questions contact Margaret Miller at 344-3937 or Faye Cauley at 973-0510.

We look forward to seeing you.



We rejoice 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); with Molly and Chris Broders in the birth of a daughter, Hannah Louise, on January 31; with Weezie Taylor in the birth of a grandson, Jackson Dean Padilla, on February 13 in Colorado (Parents are Tim and Tamara Taylor Padilla).

Memorials for February

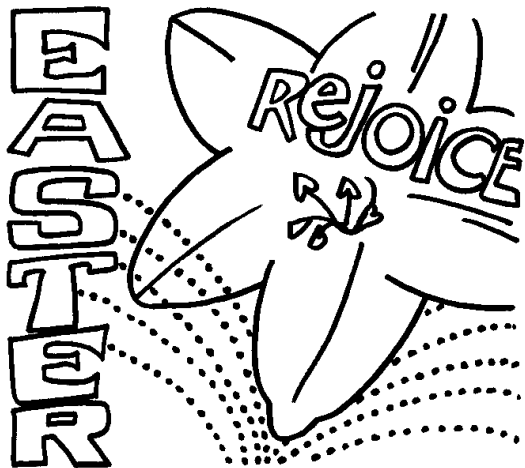
*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Marilyn Mathis
Howard Mathis
Brown Wallace

From the following:

Ruth Fitzgerald
Tom and Julia Turnbull
Billy and Sue McLean
Willard and Elaine Myers
Mitchell and Susan Lattof
George and Louise Gunn
Robert and Kathleen Greer
Jackie and Sally Greer
Rosemary, Steve, Bobby and Lori DeMouy
Marilyn Leon

Edith Jackson
Dan and Frances Moss
Rob and Julie Brannon
USA Speech and Hearing
Larry and Pamela Batchelor
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Nell Damon
Marrion and Betsy Rambeau
Ken Reid
Pam Brunson
Southtrust Bank
Jackson Heights Garden Club
Mobile Historic Development Commission
Thursday Night Bridge Club and Catherine West
B. White-Spunner
Bonnie and Bobby Norton
Noel and Marty Holston
Anita and George Payne



If resurrection happened regularly, there would be nothing *different* about Jesus being raised from the dead. He would be one among many, just another statistic...If (Jesus' resurrection) *is* unique, then, by definition, there will be no analogous events. That makes it a lot harder to believe. It also makes it worth believing.

-Alister E. McGrath, "What was God Doing on the Cross," *Christianity Today*

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

March 2005

- 6 *4th Sunday in Lent*
1 Sam. 16:1-13; Ps. 23;
Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- 13 *5th Sunday in Lent*
Ex. 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8:-11
John 11:1-45
- 20 *Passion/Palm Sunday*
Matt. 21:1-11; Ps./ 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;
Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54
- 27 *Easter/Resurrection of the Lord*
Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 2-0:1-18 or
Matt. 28:1-10

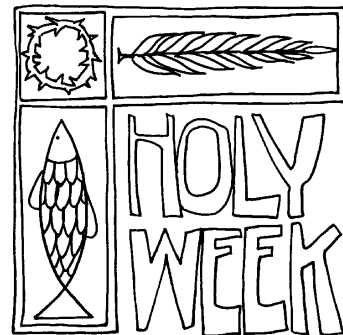
CHRIST
IS
RISEN

March 2005						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Church Calendar

March 2005

- 2 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
7 Committees – 7:00 p.m.
8 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
9 Circles
12-13 Brian Wren at SHPC
14 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
17 Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering at SHPC
19 Easter Egg Hunt
21 Session – 7:00 p.m.
24 Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 7:00 p.m.
25 Good Friday Service – Noon
27 Easter Sunday



Experience is that marvelous thing that
enables you to recognize a mistake when
you make it again.

—F. P. Jones

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers.

*Beware the Ides of
Ti Amo.*

