

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian
Church

Vol. 65

No. 3

March 2009

From the Pastor's Desk...

By the time you read this, Christians throughout the world will have entered the Lenten Season. The word "Lent" simply means the lengthening of days, a reference to the coming of spring. Lent begins this year on February 25, Ash Wednesday, and will end on Saturday, April 11, the day before Easter. Lent is a season of forty days. (Sundays are *not* included as *every* Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection.) The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness where He was tempted by Satan.

I pray that for our church Lent will prove a time of *Going Deeper*. That has been our hope and theme since the beginning of the New Year: to go deeper into faith, to welcome the Holy Spirit, to embrace Christ with exuberance, humility, and gratitude, and to be the person God has called us to be *in Christ*.

To that end, our Wednesday Noon Lenten services have been planned and our Wednesday evening Lenten programs are scheduled. A number of pastors and lay people representing several denominations will be leading both programs.

Let's encourage one another to pray to receive the grace that God has prepared for us in this season, and to be found a "new creation" on Easter morning.

Yours in Christ,
Norman



The Lord's Supper will be
celebrated in worship on
March 1.

Molly's Musings
Tabernacle: Mishkan: "To dwell"

Think of all the intimate details you know about the people who live (or have lived) under the same roof as you. For better or for worse, you know more about them than their average acquaintances. From their eating habits to their weird quirks that make them unique, you have had the opportunity to observe your housemates in an element in which others are not privy.

I'm sure Chris could reveal all sorts of unflattering details about the life of Molly Broders. Chris would tell you I like to set my clock ahead by at least 15 minutes and the alarm clock goes off at least 30 minutes before I have to get up (this drives him crazy). I would tell you that we have an ongoing debate whether or not Chris has actually ever loaded a dish in the dishwasher. I would also tell you that he irons the kids' clothes every day before he leaves for work (an act for which I am incredibly grateful). Do you get it? These are the intimate details of living in a relationship. We take it for granted, but when you think about it, it's actually pretty special.

The Hebrew word for tabernacle is "mishkan" which when translated means "to dwell." I am struck by the fact the since the beginning of Creation, it has been God's desire to dwell with and among those He has created. It wasn't His intention to just create the universe and then step back and let it go its way. He's not just sitting up there in heaven, a mere observer of the Creation. Nor has it ever been his desire to just be our God; a friend, an acquaintance. As I look at these Scriptures I have printed below, I am awestruck, that His desire is to dwell with us, to know the intimate details of living life under the same roof. It's about a relationship, a REAL, authentic relationship... the kind you can't hide the good or the bad. Please, drink these Scriptures in and allow the truth contained within to sink into your heart and mind.

Exodus 25:8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."

Leviticus 26:11-12 "I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people."

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Ephesians 2:22 "And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

From the Garden of Eden, to a portable tent in the desert, to a temple in Jerusalem to the Son of God dressed in a tent of flesh to the hearts of believers, it has ALWAYS been God's desire to dwell with His people. Do you see that truth spoken by God Himself throughout His word? This God that we worship doesn't just want your time, your money, your heart, your service. He is absolutely in love with you and wants to move in with you and be in a relationship with you. It's a big step for most of us, but it's the only decision you will ever make that matters. If you haven't already done so, let today be the day you open the door and invite Him into your life.

(Continued on page 3)

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For one day, Scripture tells us, we will dwell with Him or without Him. The veil of what we believe to be reality will be lifted. On that day, the only thing that will matter is whether or not we said yes to His invitation of grace and salvation - whether or not we answered the door when He knocked and allowed Him to dwell. Give Him a room. He already knows all your annoying habits and loves you anyway!

Peace,
Molly

Mark's Remarks

The Chase

After growing up in this church for the last 25 years, I have been “adopted” by more “mothers” than I can count. “Mothers” that pour out endless love, prepare delicious home cooked meals for me, offer help that only a “mother” would offer, provide medical advice, and more recently, offer relationship and love advice. I guess after growing up here in this church you could say these ladies know me and apparently they desire to see me with a female companion, something a single, 25 year old male desires as well.

I have been reading (surprising for those of you who know me) the book, *Blue Like Jazz*, by Donald Miller. In this book Miller describes a relationship with which I am all too familiar... *The Chase*. For those of you who are not familiar with the term or those for whom it has been some time since you have been through this stage, let me fill you in. For me, *The Chase* has been just as Miller describes it: you can't help but think about the girl constantly. You no longer care as much about yourself, rather her. You think about her more than you think of anything. You are willing to make all sacrifices just to see her. You put aside things you normally wouldn't. You attend events that may seem awkward just to spend time with her. You tend to forget your own problems and adopt hers, trying your best just to make her laugh and get through them. You place her before everything else, making her the most important.

But what happens next? You either “catch” what you are chasing or it slips away, both potentially ending with disaster. You see, being chased and going through chasing someone is fun, thrilling and exciting, but who is the center of focus? Whose desires are first on your heart? Who do you seek most to please? Jesus promised us that if we “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things will be added” to us.

Why are we so quick to do these things for a significant other; yet we do not persistently chase after our Creator, our Redeemer, our Father. One who offers constant love for us even as he watches us focus all our energies on pursuing some earthly goal. We could substitute sports, academics, career, and fortune – any goal on which we set our sight and place first in our priorities. Often our catch slips away, and what do we have to show? Nothing shy of hurt and pain and yet we are still willing to pursue what hurts us. We need to start by chasing after the One true person that matters, the One who offers us salvation, and the One who desires more than anything to be our bridegroom. It is only through having complete faith, giving Him our lives and trust that He will repay us tenfold with countless blessings – which just might include that “catch” we were chasing to begin with!

**The Stillman College Choir
In Concert at SHPC**

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m.



Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Vera Lynn Sheets, who was selected as Teacher of the Year at Phillips Preparatory School and as Mobile County Public School System Teacher of the Year in the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame Program.



**Sarah Jordan, Soprano
In Recital**

Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

SHPC Sanctuary

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following the Concert

Come enjoy a concert by Sarah Jordan, daughter of Margaret and Harvie Jordan. The concert will feature a variety of songs, including arias, art songs, sacred songs, spirituals, Broadway and jazz. Sarah is a very active member of our church, participating in our youth program and Youth Chorale, as well as being active in the community and at St. Paul's School, including the choral and band programs (serving as drum major). Sarah, who will be attending college next year, studies voice with Randy Sheets.

Are We There Yet? The Story of Moses and the Exodus

A Musical by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

Presented by our Children's Choirs

In our Worship Services on April 26

Music in Ministry

Choirs in Worship during March

All Children's Choirs (March 8, 11:00)

Junior Choir and Carol Choir (March 22, 8:30)

Youth Chorale and Bronze Ringers (March 29, 8:30)

Spring Hill Ringers (March 29, 11:00)

Chancel Choir (each Sunday at 11:00)

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.

Blood Drive

Our Blood Drive will be Sunday, March 8 in the Bullard Building from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed. Please sign up to donate. It only takes a few minutes of your time. The Red Cross now requires a valid driver's license, donor card, or two (2) alternative forms of ID to be shown before you can give blood. Please call the church office (342-1550) or use the tear-off in the bulletins.

Easter Lilies



Lilies will be part of the sanctuary decorations for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. 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 12th. Cost will be \$12.00.

Currents Issues
Adult Sunday School Class
March 2009 Schedule

- March 1 Week 2, Book Discussion: *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*, by Wm. Paul Young – Lead by Pastor Mark Mueller. (New)
- March 8 *The Role of the Courts in Saving a Generation of Children and Young Adults:* Mobile District Juvenile Court. Judge Edmund Naman
- March 15 Educational Second (Perhaps “Last”) Chance for At Risk Children and Young Adults: 100 Black Men and the Phoenix Programs. Mr. Green and Mr. Ralph Wilson. (rescheduled)
- March 22 Serving the Needs of Young Adults: Presbyterian Campus Ministry. Mr. J. Gaines Betbeze. (Rescheduled)
- March 29 Issues of Tax and Constitutional Reform in Alabama - Mark Berte, Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation. (New)

Current Scriptures Sunday
School Class
March 2009 Schedule

- March 1 Philippians 4:6-7
- March 8 1 John 1:9
- March 15 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- March 22 Hebrews 4:12
- March 29 Psalm 1:2

Discovery Bible Class

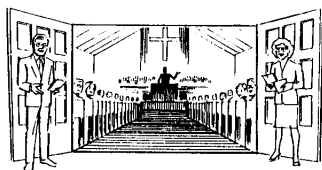
For the coming quarter commencing in March, Discovery Class will view the DVD “Walking the Bible” aired by PBS, which involves a narrator who takes us to places of historical interest mentioned in the first four books of the Bible, ranging from where the cradle of civilization is thought to have begun, to Jerusalem, and then to Egypt and other significant places mentioned in these four books.

In April and May, we will be studying and discussing three passages in Luke and one from Acts, with the focus being on “The Path to New Life.”

For May, we will be studying Ephesians, also in the New Testament, with the focus being on “The Way of New Life.” We always have a lively discussion and ask more questions than we can give answers; however, we believe that you will find in this quarter of study and discussion some answers which will help you (and us) on our Journey of Faith. Come join us . . . You’ll be glad you did!

Welcome to our new member:

Cynthia (Cindy) Campbell
8250-A Howells Ferry Road
Semmes, AL 36575
649-7235



Welcome to Our
Congregation

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, March 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, March 11 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Bron Dixon (2828 Grant Street)
- #2 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Ann Jung (5760 Vendome Drive N.)
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor



The annual Spring Gathering will be Thursday March 19, at First Presbyterian Church in Foley. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Dee Koza will be guest speaker and our Ann Jung will be installed as Moderator of Presbyterian Women in our Presbytery. More information is posted on a flyer on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Please call the church to make reservations if you would like to ride on the bus.

Library News

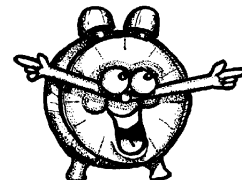
New DVD explores Theodicy

Who is to blame for the greatest of all crimes? Facing extermination at Auschwitz, a group of prisoners solemnly weighs the case against God.

God on Trial was seen on APT's *Masterpiece Theatre* and is now available for check out. This is a challenging and respectful proceeding and would prompt good discussion as to why bad things happen to

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour **before** going to bed on Saturday.



Time Change!

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 5 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a family lunch and Easter Egg Hunt in the Bullard Building for families with children 5th grade and below. Please call the church office or use the tear-off in the bulletin for reservations. If anyone is interested in helping with the Easter Egg Hunt and lunch/or sharing an Easter story with our children during this time, please call Kelley Lamberth (343-5733).

Service Committee

This month we will highlight The Health Care for the Homeless. Hilda Gewin is our liaison for this agency.

Healthcare for the Homeless

The Healthcare for the Homeless Center, at 555 Dauphin Street next to the Catholic Service Center, gives health and social services to the homeless in our community. Homelessness is the condition and social category of people who lack fixed housing, usually because they cannot afford a regular, safe and adequate shelter. To receive healthcare and social services provided by the H.R. Savage Center, individuals must meet the definition of homelessness as defined by the Department of Human Services, Section 330 (H) Grant Program.

The Healthcare for the Homeless program was adopted in 1992 by Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc., to meet the healthcare needs of homeless individuals and families in the Mobile area. Franklin's H.E. Savage Center was named after Dr. H.E. Savage for his outstanding dedication and services to Franklin Primary Health Center's patients.

The Homeless Outreach Team provides outreach services throughout the Mobile and surrounding areas. They are the city's initial point of contact for the chronic homeless living on the street. The team seeks out and engages chronically homeless persons and, for those who are willing, places them in housing linked with appropriate services.

The mission statement for the Center: "Our Mission is to be a caring, compassionate and viable community health center improving the lives of those we serve by providing accessible, affordable and comprehensive health services."

ON THE WEB: <http://www.wingfling.org/testing/homeless.htm>

AGENCY NEEDS

Penelope's Closet.....Books, Plastic Hangers, Children's Clothes
(Donation Bin in Bullard Building)

Victory Health.....Toilet paper, copy paper, paper towels, stamps
(Donation Bin in Bullard Building)

Food Bank.....Canned fruit and vegetables
(Donation Bin in Main Building)

Healthcare for Homeless...Toiletries (Kleenex, toothpaste, combs, deodorant)
(Donation call Hilda Gewin 342-5604)

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(Service Committee: Continued from page 8)



Calendar of Events

March 8	Red Cross Blood Drive
April 12	Easter Lilies Delivered after Easter Service.

From the Stewardship Committee

In keeping with the theme this year of “Going Deeper,” we are commanded by God to take care of the poor and oppressed. Through our prayers, we will find our faith deepening and the Holy Spirit filling us with compassion, the result being that we will want to help (more and more) the poor and needy. That is why we are committed to continuing our goal of giving at least 26.5% of our pledges to benevolences at Spring Hill.

I am happy to report that in our 2009 budget we are scheduled to give to 18 different local charities and agencies that care for the poor, sick and needy as well as some that minister to families and youth.

Each month the Service Committee features one in this newsletter (see page 8). We would encourage you to pick one and volunteer to help with your time and talent. Remember God wants us to give our first fruits and our best – not our leftovers. In this tough economic environment, charities are really feeling a pinch and can use any help they can get.

God has blessed us all richly and will continue to do so if we continue to focus on His Son Jesus Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

Rick True,
Chairman, Stewardship Committee



People of all ages and lifestyles sometimes find themselves in need of a nonjudgmental listener to help them deal with a problem or situation. Our church has a Stephen Ministry program that prepares volunteers to be such listeners. If you need a Stephen Minister, please call Margaret Miller at 344-3937, Ellen Johnston at 471-1611, or Nancy Adams at 342-6130. A **new Stephen Ministry class** is being planned for 2009. Stephen leaders have scheduled a meeting in the Bride’s Room *following the 11 o’clock service on Sunday, March 8*, for those interested in joining the class.

Wednesday noon Lenten Worship

February 25 (Holy Communion)

Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller

Associate Pastor: Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

March 4

Rev. David Maulden

Pastor: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mobile

March 11

Father David Tokarz

Pastor: Our Savior Catholic Church, Mobile

March 18

Rev. Toby Mueller

Interim Pastor: Overlook Presbyterian Church, Mobile

March 25

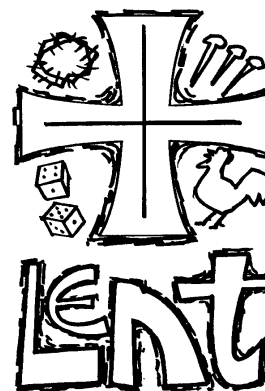
Rev. Michael Thomas

Pastor: Elijah House, Mobile

April 1

Dr. Charles Brown

Pastor: Government Street Baptist Church, Mobile



Wednesday night speakers in Lent

March 4: Brad McClain

March 11: Jack O'Neill

March 18: Norman McCrummen

March 25: Jack O'Neill

April 1: Pam Haines

1st Thursday Lunch Bunch

Thursday, March 5, we welcome Shir Mnuchin, a young lady emissary from Israel. She will lunch with us and then share her story of her paternal grandfather bringing his family from Russia to farm in the newly created State of Israel. Her maternal grandfather was a Zionist and was murdered in Iraq for his beliefs. Shir was born and grew up in Israel. She is an officer in the army there with troop education her primary function and now she comes to the USA to educate us on Israeli culture and the Jewish people. She is living in Mobile for one year under the auspices of the Mobile Area Jewish Foundation. Please welcome Shir to our church and to share our Southern hospitality.



We rejoice with Lila Dexter in the marriage of her granddaughter, Anna Bailey, to Caleb Clark on February 7 in the sanctuary.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Buddy Culp in the death of his sister, Christine Culp, on January 30.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Frances Curry
Louise Ellen Harris
Bin Cochran
John Bowen
Carter Bryars

From the following:

Iris and Albert Klein
Liz Hill
Style-Line Furniture, Inc.
Dr. Dorothy McGehee
Joan Hartwell

My understanding of Christianity is that it underlies all progressive moves to implement more justice, get at a higher degree of peace in the world. The impulse to love God and neighbor, that impulse is at the heart of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. No question about it – we have much more in common than we have in conflict.

– The Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Camp Pinetreat Summer Schedule

"Love to Serve!"

Here is the camp schedule

June 21-26	Night Owls I	(7th - 9th)
June 28 - July 3	Teen Leadership	(10th - 11th)
July 1 - 3	Footsteps	(1st - 3rd)
July 8-10	Kindermusik Camp	(NEW!)
July 12 - 17	Journey 1	(4th - 6th)
July 19 - 24	Journey 2	(4th - 6th)
July 26 - 31	Night Owls II	(7th - 9th)



Pinetreat

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

March 2009

- 1 *1st Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- 8 *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31;
Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
- 15 *3rd Sunday in Lent*
Exod. 20:1-17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25
John 2:13-22
- 22 *4th Sunday in Lent*
Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107: 1-3, 17-22;
Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
- 29 *5th Sunday in Lent*
Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or
Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10;
John 12:20-33

LENT

March 2009						
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
29	30	31				

Hold on to what is good
even if it is a handful of earth.
Hold on to what you believe
even if it is a tree that stands by itself.
Hold on to what you must do
even if it is a long way from here.
Hold on to life
even if it is easier to let go.
Hold on to my hand
even if I have gone away from you.

– Pueblo blessing

This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them – write it on their hearts! – and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They’ll know me first-hand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!

– Jeremiah 31:33-34a, from *The Message*

Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.

– Jean P. F. Richter

Church Calendar

March 2009

- 1 Communion
Men/Women Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 3 Committees
- 4 Women’s Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
Lenten Noon Service – David Mauldin, speaker
Bible Study and Supper – 5:45 p.m. – Brad McClain, speaker
- 5 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 6-7-8 Youth Retreat at Fowl River
- 8 Blood Drive 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Men/Women Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 10 Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Circles
Lenten Noon Service – David Tokarz, speaker
Bible Study & Supper – 5:45 p.m. – Jack O’Neill, speaker
- 13 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 15 Stillman College Concert – 3:00 p.m.
Men/Women Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Women’s Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Lenten Noon Service – Toy Mueller, speaker
Bible Study and Supper – 5:45 p.m. – Norman McCrummen, speaker
- 19 Presbyterian Women’s Spring Gathering at
- 22 Men’s Women’s Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 25 Women’s Bible Study – 9:15 a.m..
Lenten Noon Service – Michael Thomas, speaker
Bible Study and Supper – 5:45 p.m. – Jack O’Neill, speaker
- 29 Men/Women Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.

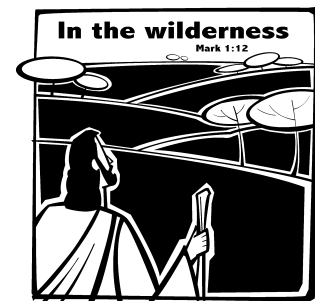


Table Grace

First the seed and then the grain:	thank you, God, that we are fed.
thank you, God, for sun and rain.	Thank you, God, for all your care;
First the flour and then the bread:	help us, God, to share and share. Amen

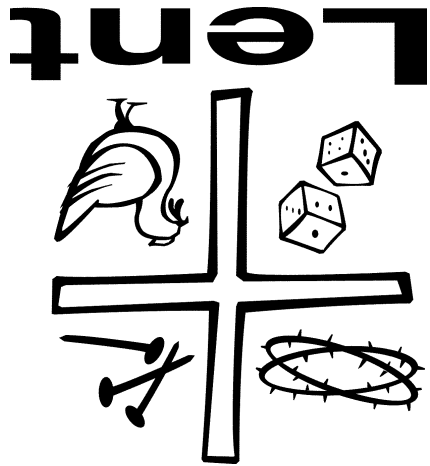
Studies suggest that in the average lifetime, a person spends one full year looking for lost items.

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and Irish Whiskers a'twitchin' on Ti Amo and Al E. Cat



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*March
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