

# Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 62

May 2006

No. 5

## From the Pastor...

**W**here is some news you'll be pleased to know: the Chapel Committee, chaired by Rick True, has been working with Frank Dagley and Nick Holmes III in coming up with a simple, colonial structure that will complement our sanctuary and meet our needs. Recently, an acoustical expert met with Rick, the architects, and Randy Sheets and made excellent suggestions regarding the chapel's interior. And in God's good providence, we were able to secure (through an estate gift designated for the music ministry) a fabulous, small pipe organ that was temporarily used at St. Joseph's Chapel at Spring Hill College.

The Chapel Committee has included a space in the design of the narthex for the placement of ashes (called a columbarium). No small number of people have hoped for such a place for their loved ones and for themselves.

The funds raised for the chapel will come as memorial gifts as well as gifts to honor a living family member or friend. Without any solicitation, the chapel fund has in it \$73,610.89.

Once built, the chapel will be open every day for prayer. Communion will be served weekly. Prayer groups will meet there. Smaller weddings and memorial services will be held in it. Vespers will be observed on Sunday afternoons. A midweek prayer service will be held throughout the year.

At the heart of our Christian life is worship whether done corporately or privately. Our spiritual well being is dependent on it. Our need for an intimate, quiet and holy setting for prayer and worship is basic to who we are as children of God. It is He Who says, "Be still and know that I am God." (Ps. 46:10) Our chapel will provide just such a place for reflection and meditation as well as a setting for corporate services.

As soon as drawings are ready, Rick and his committee will have an unveiling for our church family. Meanwhile, let us prepare ourselves through prayer for being a part of this very holy undertaking remembering that God will meet us there and bless us with His presence.

In His love,  
Norman



**The Lord's Supper will be  
celebrated in worship on  
Sunday, June 4.**



*The Summer Schedule will begin Sunday, May  
28, with worship at 10:00 a.m. and Christian  
Education classes at 9:00 a.m.*

## Tom's Tidbits

### There IS Summer CE at SHPC!

One of the questions that some of you have asked me lately is whether or not Spring Hill has education ministry in the summer. The answer is YES! Summer is a time to refresh our minds and bodies through vacations, but while you are in Mobile we do have educational ministries for you and your friends.



The children will be divided into three groups. For your children ages 2 and younger we have child care. For children ages 3 through grade 5 we have an exciting drama and activity-based course called *Passport Through the Bible*. They will start together going through a time warp and meeting various biblical characters. Afterwards they will divide into appropriate age groups for music and learning activities. For youth in grades 6 through 12 we will have an informal Bible Study and prayer time in Tom's office. Adults are welcome to attend any of the four classes that we have ongoing. Current Issues, however, will conclude at the end of June.

Summer CE is relaxing and shorter than the regular program year routine. We meet in various classrooms from 9:00 – 9:45 AM. I invite you to come and be part of the experience! Bring a friend or visiting family, too. We'd love to meet them!



### ***By the Sea***

**An Intergenerational Musical by John Horman  
About the Life and Ministry of Jesus**

**Presented by Children, Youth, and  
Adults of our Church**

**Presented in both worship services  
Sunday, May 14**



### **Camp Pinetreat – 2006**

**June 11-23** Night Owl (Rising 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders)  
**July 6-8** Footsteps (Rising 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders)  
**July 9-14** Journey 1 (Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders)  
**July 16-21** Journey 2 (Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders)  
**July 23-28** \*La Frontera (Rising 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

\*Means “a place of transition”

Camp Pinetreat registration forms are available on the Presbytery of South Alabama's website:  
[www.presbyteryofsouthala.org](http://www.presbyteryofsouthala.org)

## Service committee

The Salvation Army Women's and Children's Shelter has not re-opened after being flooded during Hurricane Katrina. Other agencies that SHPC supports are filling some of the needs left unmet due to this temporary closing. One of these is FAMILY PROMISE. Pray that the needs of homeless children will be met and that we may be instrumental in reaching that goal. Pray that the Women's and Children's Shelter will be ready for use soon.

Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it; if it is unfair, don't let it irritate you; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, learn from it.

## **Molly's Musings** **A Sunday to Remember**

I'll confess. The day after I got married was a let down. I think Chris took it personally that I was a little gloomy on Sunday morning as we prepared to depart for our honeymoon. I tried to explain to him that it was an event I'd been planning in my head all my life. The previous 6 months had been a flurry of parties and preparation. It was such an exciting time, and then in a matter of 24 hours, it was over.

It's funny, but every year I get that same feeling when Youth Sunday and Senior Breakfast are over. For the past 5 weeks, Mark and I have been furiously making preparations for these two special events. We've spent hours in front of the computer trying to pick out music for the slideshow and time it perfectly with the pictures. We've had multiple meetings with those giving the sermons. We've typed up each individual's part. We've bought decorations. We've written numerous letters. We've been to Walgreens a dozen times to copy pictures. The list goes on and on and as stressed as I get sometimes, it is one of the most exciting seasons in the life of Youth Ministry. Even though we've been working really hard, I know I'll be exceptionally sad this year when it's all over.

For me, Youth Sunday is one of the spiritual highs of my year. To see our youth expressing their faith always touches me deeply. I am always reminded how blessed we are as a church to have so many outstanding young people in our midst. I am also humbled to see the mighty work God is doing in their lives. When I see them stand up and lead worship, there is no doubt in my mind that God is in the business of transforming lives. I see the transformation in front of me on their faces and in their voices. Youth Sunday reminds me that we have every reason to rejoice because God is alive and at work and doing awesome things.

For all these reasons, I hope you will join us for Youth Sunday on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service only. Our theme this year is "The Attitude of Christ." It is the hope and prayer of all the youth that you will be blessed by their leadership in worship.

Yours in Christ,  
Molly Broders

### **From the Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee wishes to thank the congregation for its participation in the Lenten prayer tree project. More than 385 ribbons were tied on the tree, each one representing a prayer made by someone in our congregation. In addition, the idea was shared with churches in the Presbytery and Katrina relief workers from all over the country. It is the committee's hope that this project enhanced your spiritual Lenten Journey.



Mark your calendars now for our annual church picnic which will be on May 28 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. There will be delicious food and fun for the

whole family. Tables and chairs will be available for our seniors but bring blankets and folding chairs if you prefer more casual seating. Cost is Adult \$4.00. Child \$2.00, Family Max \$20.00. Call the church office for reservations, sign up on the reservation sheet in the hall or use the tear-off in the bulletins.

### **First Thursday Lunch**

First Thursday Lunch will be May 4. Join us at 11:45 a.m. for fellowship and a delicious meal. Please call the church office to make reservations or use the tear-off in the bulletin.

## Stewardship Committee

In this Easter season we are very mindful of the fulfillment of all human hopes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ; but not just in this season do we want to give thanks and celebrate. God's goodness is always with us – in so many different ways. That is why I want to encourage you to examine not only the depth of your gratitude, but how you can show your gratitude for the blessings that are yours.



### Stewardship

One way, of course, is to return to God His tithe. By doing so, we become partners with the Holy Spirit in empowering the church to do God's work. This truth is not only exciting (awesome actually), it is very humbling. The privilege we have to be God's instrument for hope, change and renewal is like none other. By our tithes and offerings we *with God* advance the gospel message of love and mercy. There is no higher privilege.

You'll want to know that as of March 31, we have received \$258,455.46 toward our budget of \$1,089,000.00. In the spirit of Easter (and with a heart of gratitude) let's not only meet our budget, let's go beyond it as an expression of love.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Gordon Mowry, Chair  
Stewardship Committee

## From notes to narrative



During WWII a special unit of combat historians was formed in the American Army under George C. Marshall to record the war for posterity. Forrest Pogue was one of these. His dozen or so gray notebooks are the basis of *Pogue's War*, a book given recently to the church library by Franklin D. Anderson.

In the book's foreword, Stephen E. Ambrose refers to the author as probably the smartest Sgt. in all the army. Today he would have been embedded and so it appears he was over sixty years ago. His wartime diary reported the good and bad, warts and all from Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge. He experienced what the troops experienced and detailed the struggles and brutality of battle with an honest and unflinching eye.

Frank Anderson in the preface explains his connection with the Kentuckian and how he came personally to transcribe the "physician-like script" into the present narrative. The "armload of little gray books" was used by Anderson to finish what Pogue, now fast losing his sight, had not been able to complete. Through the support and encouragement of Pogue's wife, Christine, who acted as proofreader, and Stephen E. Ambrose and other historians, Anderson was finally able in 2 ½ years to transcribe this unique and personal account of WWII combat forces.

### *My name is...*

Two hard working secretaries were comparing notes at the end of the day. "Isn't it hard the way we have to work?" sighed one. "Hard isn't the word," replied the other, "I typed so many letters yesterday that last night I finished my prayers with, 'Yours truly.'"

A teacher had just given her second-grade class a lesson on magnets. Now came the question session, and she asked a little boy, "My name starts with an 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?" the boy replied instantly, "A Mother."

## Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference room.

The annual Birthday Luncheon and Officer Installation of the Presbyterian Women will be Wednesday, May 10. The meeting will begin in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. with lunch following in the Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations through your Circle Chairpersons or call the church office.



AL/MS Women's Conference will be held July 25-28 at Stillman College.

### A letter from a Katrina relief worker:

Dear Spring Hill Friends,

You have no idea what it feels like to come to your wonderful church home and find comfortable beds in rooms with heat and air conditioning, and food to use as we prepare for our workdays. And then, to top it off, you come to feed us in the evenings too, and meet with us and share your lives with us.

This mission tripper is incredibly grateful for all the gifts you have shared with us. You are truly a wonderful blessing in all of our lives.

This has become home away from home this week – truly home.

Thank you,  
Joanne Shipley

### Prayer written by relief worker

The following is a prayer written by a volunteer doing relief work in Pearlington. Thanks to Andy Harper for finding this and sharing it with us!

It's the dead of night and I cannot sleep. I find myself at my keyboard, somewhat overwhelmed. There is so much to do here and it seems to take so much to get even a little something done. If the whole world could come to a place like Pearlington, they would understand what it is we witness here; what it means to lose everything by an act of God and then to try and hold bravely onto one's Faith. Words like dignity, integrity, trust and hope take on new meanings; no longer vague abstractions, but the stuff of everyday challenge to understand their meanings and to walk them in the world. Faith really isn't Faith until it is ALL you're holding onto. Hope is the daily waiting, looking at the mess that was once your life and praying someone will come to help. Many people in this town are holding on to to both, like two life preservers keeping them afloat in a sea of broken dreams.

*Continued on page 6*

*"Prayer" continued from page 5*

They never expected us here, never needed us here, but they need and want us now. Some are too proud to ask for help, some ask for too much. Many are manifesting some version of post-traumatic stress and we need to be gentle with them. And with ourselves. We can't do everything, only what we can and it serves no purpose to burn out on the altar of service. I remember back in November thinking I hadn't called home in a couple of days and almost resenting the fact that I should. It was then that I realized I was at risk of "going native," of over-identifying with the good people of Pearlington, as if they were MY people, MY town. As a therapist it's a dangerous spot to be in and a sure sign of Compassion Fatigue. I had come to care so much, to be so busy on their behalf, to want to help and make the monster go away.

Now I'm back once again, rested, with a healthier perspective and still I feel their pain. It shouldn't be so hard to get some paint, some plywood, some nails. Simple things that would merely occasion a short trip to the Home Depot, but magnified 1600-fold - is daunting. And that's just Pearlington. If I only share with you the karaoke, the crab boils and the fried turkey; only talk about miracles of resource meeting need; only sound up and happy and that it is all easy, I would minimize the experience of both resident and volunteer alike. Don't get me wrong: Karaoke Nights in the fall were fun, but I intended it as group therapy for us all.

Tomorrow, I will arise and put my customary smile on my face and rejoin the adventure. I am an optimist by nature and I believe in the power of the human Spirit. I believe in all the volunteers who come here to help because that very same Spirit called them to this journey. I'm proud to be a part of this volunteer community and a friend to the people of Pearlington. I know I have asked you before and once again, I call us all to redouble our efforts.

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference. Grant us the resources to fairly distribute to those truly in need of the materials required to rebuild Faith and Hope. As leaders and volunteers, grant us the ability to stay focused and healthy, leading by example and staying determined, organized and co-operative with each other. Guide us to the creation of 1600 miracles, 1600 opportunities to show we care, 1600 ways to find what we need to do this job. God, place the invitation in the hearts of all good people to come and join the Dance, each in the way they can do best, by sharing the abundance of this great continent with our brothers and sisters of all faiths and ancestries and beliefs in this little bayou town.

*It's Easter and Christ will rise again. As will Pearlington. Amen.*

### ***Worship Committee announces new improvements to sound system***

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that a new assisted listening system and a CD recording system have been added to the sound system in the sanctuary. Cassette tapes will continue to be available in addition to the CD recordings of services and special occasions. The tear-off in the bulletin will have a checkbox to indicate your preference for a tape or CD.

The assisted listening system will provide listening enhancement for those who need additional amplification. The system is an FM device and is usable anywhere in the sanctuary as well as in the Fellowship Hall. The individual receivers consist of an FM receiver with a loudness control and an button type ear-phone. Four receiver units will be available initially and others will be added as need increases. If you are interested in purchasing your own receiver, they are available for \$90.00 each.

For more information about either of these new systems, please contact the church office at 342-1550.



We rejoice with Stephen and Carrie Hunt in the birth of a daughter, Abigail (Abbie) Winifred Hunt, on March 9.



death shall  
no longer  
have  
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Walt Reeves in his death on April 13 and with Don Fry in the death of his mother, June Eleanor Foster Fry on April 14 in St. Augustine, FL.

## Memorials

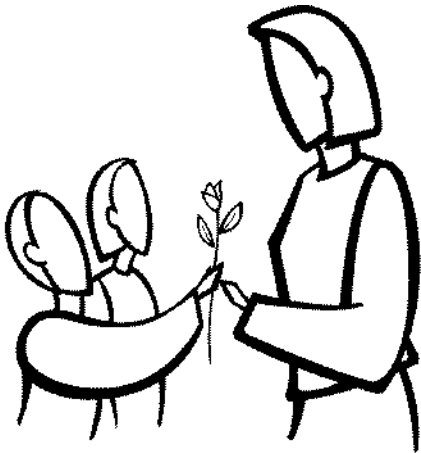
*Memorials have been received for the following:*

Mary Kathryn Bryars  
Rock Lee  
Fay Otts  
Burt Taylor  
Eunice Davis  
Betty Wolfe  
John Caddell

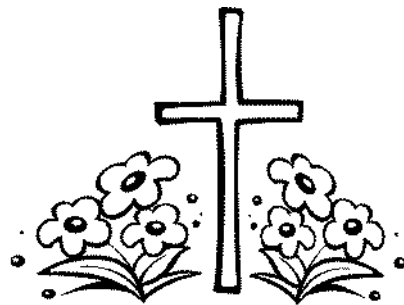
*From the following:*

Benny and Joyce Hardy and Children  
David and Anja Pace  
Mrs. D. W. Walston  
Mrs. Edith Tapia and Family  
Ray and Linda Beech  
Dorothy McGehee  
Dollie Bryars

Mr. and Mrs. John Winters  
Angus and Ann Ferguson  
Bill and Pat Outlaw  
Charles Neal  
Emmagee and Calvin Black  
Bud and Connie McLean  
Sandra and Ashley Hudson  
Merle and J. M. Weldon  
Harry and Virginia Dorlon  
Mr. and Mrs. David Fuhrman  
Mr. and Mrs. Caine O'Rear III  
Stacy McAnulty  
Louis and Jane Williams  
Sam and Judy Strada  
Sally and John Morrisette  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Braswell  
Karen and Lloyd Kelsoe



# Mother's Day



# Memorial Day

**Lectioary for the Lord's Day**  
**May 2006**

- 7 *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
 Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10:11-18
- 14 *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
 Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:1-8
- 21 *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
 Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98; 1 John 5:1-6  
 John 15:9-17
- 28 *7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; 1 John 5:9-13  
 John 17:6-19

May 2006						
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			

**Church Calendar**  
**May 2006**

- 1 Committees
- 3 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 4 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 7 Senior Breakfast  
 Youth Sunday – 11:00 a.m.
- 8 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
- 10 Presbyterian Women's General Meeting and Spring Luncheon – 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Intergenerational Musical "By the Sea" – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 15 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 18-19 Mother's Day Out and Weekday School Music Program – Noon
- 21 Confirmation followed by reception – 11:00 a.m.
- 28 Church Picnic (following the 10:00 a.m. service)



The right to be wrong in matters of religious belief must be accorded. Otherwise we produce hypocrites instead of persons with enlightened belief that is fully their own. If the truth be mighty and God all-powerful, his children need not fear that disaster will follow freedom of thought.

*--Francois de Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambria*

**Thought for the month**

***Life is a gift,  
 don't trash it.***

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and fish filet treats for Ti Amo's and Al E. Cat's Momma cats.



