

# Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

## Pentecost – The “Other” Story

Every year on Pentecost Sunday (May 11, 2008) the lectionary offers Acts 2:1-21 as the key reading for the day. This familiar story tells of the believers gathered together in Jerusalem and experiencing an unusual wind and something like tongues of fire appeared on each head. They believed these things to be signs of God’s Spirit.

Everyone began to speak at once, and they realized that they could understand one another. Bystanders assumed that the disciples were drunk, but Peter pointed out that they were only under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

The lectionary also provides another reading for Pentecost Sunday which often gets, understandably, overshadowed by the Acts text. This year, it is Numbers 11:24-30. The people of Israel have been journeying in the wilderness for some time, and they are getting tired and cranky. “Why did we ever leave Egypt?” they wail, pining for what they seem to recall as the “good old days.” (Apparently they have had a momentary memory lapse, because their days in Egypt had been spent in slavery!)

Moses is at the point of burnout and begs God for help. God in turn responds, taking some of the spirit that rests upon Moses and parcels it out to 70 elders who are then commissioned to help provide community leadership. But a curious thing happens.

Two other men, Eldad and Medad, also receive God’s Spirit. They begin to prophesy, even though they are not in the “official group.” Someone immediately tried to stop them and ran to Moses with great concern. Moses, however, was not worried.

“I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets,” Moses said, “and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them” (Numbers 11:29b, TNIV).

Something similar happens at Pentecost – God’s Spirit comes to all people: men and women, boys and girls, slaves and free, young and old. May we recognize and celebrate the Spirit of God moving and working in our midst today.

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## From the Pastor...

**G**ood News: the **Festival of Faith** will be held **June 8 and 9** and will feature the Rev. Catherine Purves.

A native of Philadelphia, Catherine is a graduate of the College of Wooster, the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She was ordained in 1980 and has served churches in Scotland and the U.S. She is the pastor of Bellevue United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, and also serves as a police chaplain and president of the Fellowship of Ministries (an ecumenical group of ministers and social service agencies).

In 2007, Catherine received a Lilly-funded sabbatical to Christian communities in Great Britain to study differences in worship and spirituality and the theology supporting the differences. Her study focused on the person and work of the Holy Spirit and how the various Christian groups are led by the Spirit.

Her theme for our Festival is the **Holy Spirit and the Community of Faith**, a very exciting subject at any time but especially for us at this critical point.

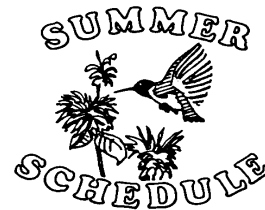
Catherine's husband is Dr. Andrew Purves whom our congregation knows well. They have three children: Brendan, a journalist in Philadelphia; Gordon, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina; and Laura, a senior at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

Please put these dates on your calendar – **June 8 and 9** –and pray that the Festival will bring all the blessings God wants for Spring Hill.

Yours devotedly,  
Norman



**The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 11.**



**The Summer Schedule will begin Sunday, May 25, with worship at 10:00 a.m. and Christian Education classes at 9:00 a.m.**

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on [people's] dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival.

– Canon Max Warren, former general secretary of the Church of England Missionary Society

**Molly's Musings**  
**"Lord, make us inseparable"**

I have learned so much through this latest Thursday morning Bible study that I can hardly decide which truth to share. If you ever have a chance to study the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120 – 134), do! I cannot describe the mortar they have added to my spiritual foundation.

In case you aren't currently involved in our Thursday morning Bible study, I'll give you a little background on the Psalms of Ascent. A close association has been made between these 15 Psalms and pilgrimage. It is believed that these Psalms were sung by the ancient exiled Jews as they traveled to Jerusalem 3 times a year for the Feasts commanded by God in the Torah. Beth Moore has drawn the parallel to modern day Christians as we are undoubtedly on a pilgrimage to the ultimate Mount Zion (heaven). I wish I had time and space to give you more information and details because all of it is unbelievably fascinating. Like I've already said, if you ever have the chance to study these Psalms for yourself, do! They have so much to teach us about the journey through this life.

No doubt the Jewish pilgrims did not travel alone as they made their way from the surrounding lands to Jerusalem. It would be unsafe not to mention long and dull without company. We too, do not travel this terrain of life alone. Our body of Christ (our church) sojourns with us until we reach our final destination. This week's video lesson spoke to me deeply as Beth Moore outlined the things we can do to be "the best traveling partners" on the journey through life to heaven. Please allow me to share with you a few of her suggestions.

1. Second Corinthians 2:10-11 tells us we must FORGIVE people.
2. Hebrews 10:24-24 tells us to ENCOURAGE one another.
3. We must learn to FIGHT for each other instead of with each other.
4. I Peter 4:7-8 says, "Above all, LOVE each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins."

I couldn't help but think of all the times I've failed, as a member of the Body of Christ to do these things. Can you imagine what this church, this community, this nation, this world would be like if every Christian consistently strived for these 4 things? I know what you're probably thinking, "Well, Molly, if people really did these four things all the time and in every situation, we wouldn't be on earth, we'd be in heaven." EXACTLY! Because of our fallen, sinful nature the reality is we won't ever fully practice forgiveness, encouragement, and profound love until we are perfect in heaven, BUT if we let the Scriptures guide us and the Holy Spirit indwell, then these fruits will surely blossom.

As I raise my kids, go to work, manage a household, try to be a good wife, mother, daughter and friend, I realize this journey certainly comes with its share of challenges and dangers. There are days, I find myself needing to know that I'm not on the road alone. Don't you need to know that when you offend, you'll be forgiven? When you're in the pit of discouragement, people will be there to encourage? When you stumble upon danger, your fellow sojourners will be there to protect you? And when you're your most unlovely self – warts and all – you are still loved? I know I can only speak for myself but these are the things I DESPERATELY NEED TO KNOW.

As we make this pilgrimage together, I pray we will all commit to being the best traveling partners we can be. As for me, I'm getting it in gear. Hope someone out there will catch me when I fall.

Affectionately,  
Molly Broders  
Your fellow traveling buddy

## From the Stewardship Committee

Much of the emphasis of Dr. McCrummen's sermons over the last several months has been the recognition and establishment of one's first love. We've been encouraged to ask: Is Jesus first in our lives? If so, will we follow His commandments?

I believe stewardship of our money defines our priorities. It is central to our statement of faith. It's an indication of the devotion we have to the Father. It makes evident our gratitude and our deepest love.

We have all been blessed to be a blessing, to give of ourselves in new and personally challenging ways. We have been called to give back to God His tithes. Please prayerfully consider the giving of your time, talents and resources as an expression of your love and faith.

You'll want to know that \$250,899.79 has been collected in pledges against our budget of \$1,175,981.71.

Respectfully,  
R. Gordon Mowry



**“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 13:34.**

We all experience challenges in life. Have you ever had to face divorce, death, loss of a parent, a child, losses due to aging, cancer, depression, or anger? One way Stephen Ministry would like to help is with a group of pamphlets, entitled *Care Notes*. These were donated by a Stephen Minister because they were so helpful to her.

These pamphlets are in the Fellowship Hall on the table that was recently placed there. The *Care Notes* are free. Take one and if after reading it, you want to put it back for someone else to read, that would be great. But if you want to keep it or share it with someone else, please do so.

Blessings,  
Margaret Miller, Stephen Leader



The total received for  
the One Great Hour of  
Sharing was \$1,488.00.

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and it's  
Cinco de Mayo fiesta time for  
Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

Email: [desellers@earthlink.net](mailto:desellers@earthlink.net) or  
[handbell@earthlink.net](mailto:handbell@earthlink.net)



## Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Everybody Loves a Party!!!!  
Presbyterian Women's Birthday Dinner

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

6:00 PM

RSVP 342-1550

Meeting and lesson in the sanctuary  
Followed by a delicious meal in Fellowship Hall  
Childcare provided

New Officers will be installed and all women of the church are invited!

Please come and have fun, food and fellowship!!!

Need a ride? Call Amy Walton 639-9479

*Looking for a Good Time?  
Check Out Presbyterian Women*

On Wednesday, March 26, I had a destination – Dothan, for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering. After loading my old beat-up silver van with my overnight bag of necessities, I drove to Ernestine McElroy's home to gather her and her belongings. Heading east on I-10 for hours, we talked, visited, laughed and shared thoughts, history, ideas and secrets with one another. (Don't worry, Ernestine, I won't tell all!)

We arrived in Dothan safely, admiring the beautiful and numerous delicate dogwood trees, checked into our motel and asked for directions to the nearest locally-owned eating establishment. Off we went to relax from being on the road and to enjoy a meal prepared by someone else! (A treat indeed!) One may think, at this point, that Ernestine and I may have run out of topics to discuss or issues to deliberate. Not the case! We continued to talk about everything from the commonality we share in growing up in the great state of Tennessee to how to harvest tobacco and grow strawberries. As we sat in our cozy booth enjoying each other's company, we saw two other Presbyterian gals we knew from one of the Baldwin County churches. Presbyterian Women had descended on Dothan!!

After a restful night, we were up early, enjoyed a lovely sunrise, ate a terrific breakfast and then headed to Evergreen Presbyterian Church where our Gathering was to be held.

What a lovely church in a picturesque neighborhood! At registration, we received our nametags (don't you wish they were permanently fixed to us!), our packets of goodies, and greeted Ruth Fitzgerald and Ann Jung who drove from Mobile that morning (Now that makes for an early day!). Many ladies were present that we knew from previous meetings and gatherings – making all of us feel very connected and close-knit – as we are, being truly connected through Christ.

After a delicious second breakfast, meeting Evergreen's pastor, Joe Johnson and socializing with Mary Jane Skinner (current Moderator of PW in our Presbytery of South Alabama), Mary Weber (PW

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Moderator of the Synod of Living Waters), and many other terrific ladies, we moved into the sanctuary as time for our meeting had come.

A meaningful, responsive litany began our program followed by candles being lit representing each church in our Presbytery as names of our 2007 deceased PW sisters were read aloud. Spring Hill's precious sisters were: Tommye Miller, Marjorie Saul, Frances Curry, Elizabeth Firster and Sammie Moore.

One of the several highlights of the day was hearing the message that Kathryn Threadgill delivered in the sanctuary. A clever, bright, and delightful, young lady, Kathryn spoke about some very personal moments in her life. These included; the tragic loss of a dear friend, Stella, to suicide at a young age; the powerful influence of a special pastor at Spanish Fort Presbyterian during youth (our very own Mark Mueller); and an amazing story of a special relationship that developed in Africa between Kathryn and a 16-year old orphan girl – incredibly named Stella as well – while Kathryn spent time doing missionary work there. Currently, she is continuing her studies at Columbia Theological Seminary, graduating in May. It was evident to all that Kathryn is blessed in many ways by God and has much to offer others through her humor, sensitivity, love of life and most importantly, her love of Christ.

While briefly speaking with her after the program, I shared with Kathryn some connections that had become apparent to me as she spoke to the group - connections of which she was unaware. Her young friend, Stella, that she so tragically lost, was also a friend of my family's. Her special pastor from Spanish Fort is now OUR special pastor continuing his work here at Spring Hill. And, yes, I had to ask if she knew our friend, Reggie Weaver – a relatively recent graduate of that fine Seminary. Yes, she knows Reggie!

God is in the details, isn't He?

From the meeting in the sanctuary, we Presbyterian Women split into small groups and had our choice of 3 workshops to attend. The choice was tough! All 3 sounded interesting: (1.) Poetry of Ann Weems; based on Psalms and Lamentations – led by our very capable Ann Jung; (2.) To Live Like Ruth – led by Dee Koza; (3.) Sing a New World into Being: Hymns of Mary Louise Bringle – led by Mary Jane Skinner.

After the workshops, we met as a large group again for the business portion of the Gathering. This is when our very own precious and capable sister, Ann Jung, was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of South Alabama. What an exciting day for us and Ann! We are very pleased and thrilled that such a wonderful woman has been called to serve in this important role. Congratulations, Ann.

The Gathering came to a close at the noon hour as we gathered in proper Presbyterian style with a delicious meal. Ruth, Ann, Ernestine and I enjoyed the entire day, made some new friends, grew in our knowledge of God and hope that all of Spring Hill PW will today put on your calendar the date and location of next year's Spring Gathering:

**March 19, 2009  
First Presbyterian Church  
Foley**

I guarantee you will have a delightful day as we did in Dothan. How can one not have a good time when one is surrounded by God, His people, and His messages?

Amy Walton  
PW Moderator

Make plans and reservations for the Alabama Women's Conference on July 22-25 in Birmingham.

## **Service Committee**

This month we will highlight the Habitat for Humanity. Chris Pennington is our liaison for this agency.

Habitat for Humanity International, was formed in 1976, as a nonprofit, nondenominational faith-based housing organization. The Mobile affiliate of Habitat for Humanity was formed in 1989. They welcome all people to join as they build simple, decent, affordable, houses in partnership with those in need of adequate shelter.

Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 130,000 houses in more than 79 countries, including some 30,000 houses across the United States.

Habitat houses are purchased by the homeowner families. Three factors make Habitat houses affordable to low-income people worldwide.

- Houses are sold at no profit, with no interest charged on the mortgage.
- Homeowners and volunteers build the houses under trained supervision.
- Individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide financial support.

Habitat for Humanity's work is organized at the local level by more than 2,900 affiliates worldwide. Affiliates coordinate house building and select partner families. Homeowner families are chosen according to their need, their ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest mortgage, and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. Application days for prospective homeowners are held several times each year. Habitat does not discriminate according to race, religion or ethnic group.

### **What does the Church Partnership do?**

The Church Partnership supports Habitat for Humanity in Mobile County in its mission to eliminate substandard housing by building decent, healthy, safe and affordable homes with families in the Mobile County community that otherwise would not be able to afford a home. This support manifests itself in many ways including prayer for all involved in the program—homeowners, future homeowners, volunteers and staff. We also supply volunteers to the program not only for the actual home construction but also to assist with homeowner relations, Habitat for Humanity office assistance, food preparation for construction volunteers and many others areas of service. Finally we support Habitat for Humanity with our finances. Each church provides funding to Habitat for Humanity in Mobile County in their own way through monthly giving, as needed gifts or special fund raising gifts. Church members can also supply construction materials or professional services.

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## **Attention Graduates**

Please call the church office if you have a young person in your family who will be graduating from high school, college or graduate school this spring. Our high school graduates will be recognized in worship on Youth Sunday, May 4 (11:00 a.m. service only).

## Service

### Update from “Academy for Equipping the Saints”:

The Presbytery of South Alabama has recently completed the second in a series of four weekend classes of AES. Participants from SHPC were Jackie McClain, Bryan and Gloria Reed.

Last fall we began the journey with “An Introduction to the Bible and Survey of the Old Testament”. We were introduced to the formation of the Old Testament, the various types of literature in Scripture and a process for interpreting biblical passages. The most recent class, entitled “Survey of the New Testament” built on the principles and study processes of the first course.

The AES provides training in Bible, reformed Theology and the Teaching of Adults with course leadership coming from PCUSA seminaries and/or colleges. The leadership and training for the past 2 sessions has been provided by Dr. George Ramsey, whose thought provoking discussions and biblical insight has been a blessing to all participants. Dr. Ramsey received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and was Presbyterian College’s Kristen Herrington Professor of Bible where he taught for nearly four decades.

## From the Library

### WHAT will be it be called?

In the heat of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation, no one would have guessed that it might have been called a revolution. In today’s religious scene, things are changing; it’s not our parents’ domination anymore.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Bullock, Jr. from Selma, Alabama has edited a collection of 21<sup>st</sup> century thought regarding reflections on what the church needs today.”

If you’re interested, open his *Presbyterians Being Reformed* or Jim Kitchen’s *The Postmodern Parish*, New Ministry for a New Era published by the Alban Institute.

Some university students are studying Shane Claiborne’s *The Irresistible Revolution, Living as an Ordinary Radical*. Chichaël Waschevski, writing in a recent *Presbyterian Outlook* (April 7/14, 2008) thinks adult Christian Education should include the following components: fostering Christian identity, spiritual formation, study of the Bible, and critical theological reflection.

Stop by the library to educate yourself in these and others.



When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.

– Billy, age 4

# Attention: New Members

**New Members (since June 2007) & your families:**

Please join us for a luncheon honoring you!

Sunday, May 4

12:15 p.m.

At the home of Mendy and Robbie Turnipseed

Ashley Drive

R.S.V.P. 342-1550

## Educational Outreach Committee

The Educational Outreach Committee gives a hearty thanks to our volunteers who have been working this year in our community. We list them with their location:

### **Mary B. Austin Elementary**

Dick and Norma Baymiller

Toni Pearce

Barbara Maynard

Tod Heyman

**John Will Elementary** - Mary Ann Donnell

**Meadowlake Elementary** - Ree Scott

**Just 4 Program** – Mike Hofto

**Florence Howard Elementary** – Michael Wing



We ask all who are interested in Fall term volunteer opportunities to call Kathy Hamilton or Laura Hastings.

## Camp Pinetreat – Summer 2008

June 22-27: Night Owls 1 (rising 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders)

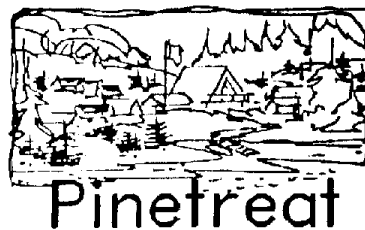
July 6-11: Teen Leadership Camp (rising 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> graders)

July 9-11: Footsteps (rising 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders)

July 13-18: Journey 1 (rising 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

July 20-25: Journey 2 (rising 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

July 27-Aug. 1: Night Owl 2 (rising 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders)





death shall  
no longer  
have  
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with John and Katherine Mincy in the death of their son, John, Jr., on March 30; with Nancy Hofto in the death of her father, Bob Trainor, on April 3; with Molly Broders in the death of her grandmother, Frances Wolf, on April 7 in Birmingham; with Mary Lou Kopf and Mit Kopf in the death of their son and brother, Mike Kopf, on April 13; and with Stan Minton in the death of his wife, Serena, on April 16.

## Memorials

*Memorials have been received  
for the following:*

Ethel Blythe  
Mary Crenshaw  
Hap Jernigan  
John Mincy, Jr.  
Ann Broughton  
Martha Zundel  
Donald Townsend  
Bill Wharton  
Bob Trainor

*From the following:*

Pat and Royce Ray  
Stony and Virginia Price  
Ted and Mona Ferguson  
Sallie and Vernon Hunter  
Alex and Molly Lankford  
Jewel H. Adams-Heblon  
Dot and Riley Stuart  
Marion and Malinda McMurphy  
John and Patti Moessinger  
Bobby and Sara Ann Clark  
Duncan and Frances McDonald  
Ann and Norman Nicolson  
Bill and Marcy Harris  
FTEC, Inc.  
Bill and Nancy Oppenheimer  
Ken Reid

Mary Ellen Smith  
John and Thelma Bowen  
Buck and Joelyne Trehern  
Liz Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Meador  
Trudy Whit  
Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Patterson  
Peggy and John Kimbirl  
Nancy E. Strachan  
Ken Reid  
Sally and Mitch Cobb  
James and Janella Pollard  
Warren Jung II  
Circle 2  
Michael and Jo Ellen Gold  
Robert and Patti Leman  
Joe and Vilma Croom  
William K. Nye  
Ruth Fitzgerald  
Dick and Harriett Pennington  
Allison Lucas  
Dan, Nyla, Anna and Amelia Smith  
Marietta and Tom Ford  
Camille and Happy Luscher  
Jack and Sally Greer  
Mrs. John W. Adams  
The Mariner Owners' Association, Inc.  
Mel and Bud Richey  
Jean Arendall  
Lewis and Sandra Wood

***Lectionary for the  
Lord's Day  
May 2008***

- 4 *7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- 11 *Day of Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13 or  
Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or  
John 7:37-39
- 18 *Trinity Sunday*  
Gen. 1:1-2:4a; Ps. 8; 2 Cor. 13:11-13  
Matt. 28:16-21
- 25 *8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Isa. 49:8-16a; Ps. 131; 1 Cor. 4:1-5  
Matt. 6:24-34



<b>May 2008</b>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 2008***

- 4 Youth Sunday  
New Member Lunch – 12:15 p.m.  
Senior Dinner – 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Monday night with our Jewish friends – Dinner at 6:15 p.m.  
Rabbi Silberman, speaker
- 6 Committees
- 7 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Committee – 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Meals -On-Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 9-10 Presbytery at Stockton Presbyterian
- 11 Lord's Supper
- 12 Monday Night with Alice Tennebaum – Holocaust survivor, Dinner at 6:15 p.m.
- 13 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.  
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Presbyterian Women's General Meeting and Dinner – 6:00 p.m.
- 15-16 Mother's Day Out and Weekday School Music Program – Noon
- 18 Confirmation – 11:00 a.m. service followed by reception  
Teacher Appreciation Lunch – following Confirmation reception

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*May  
Newsletter*