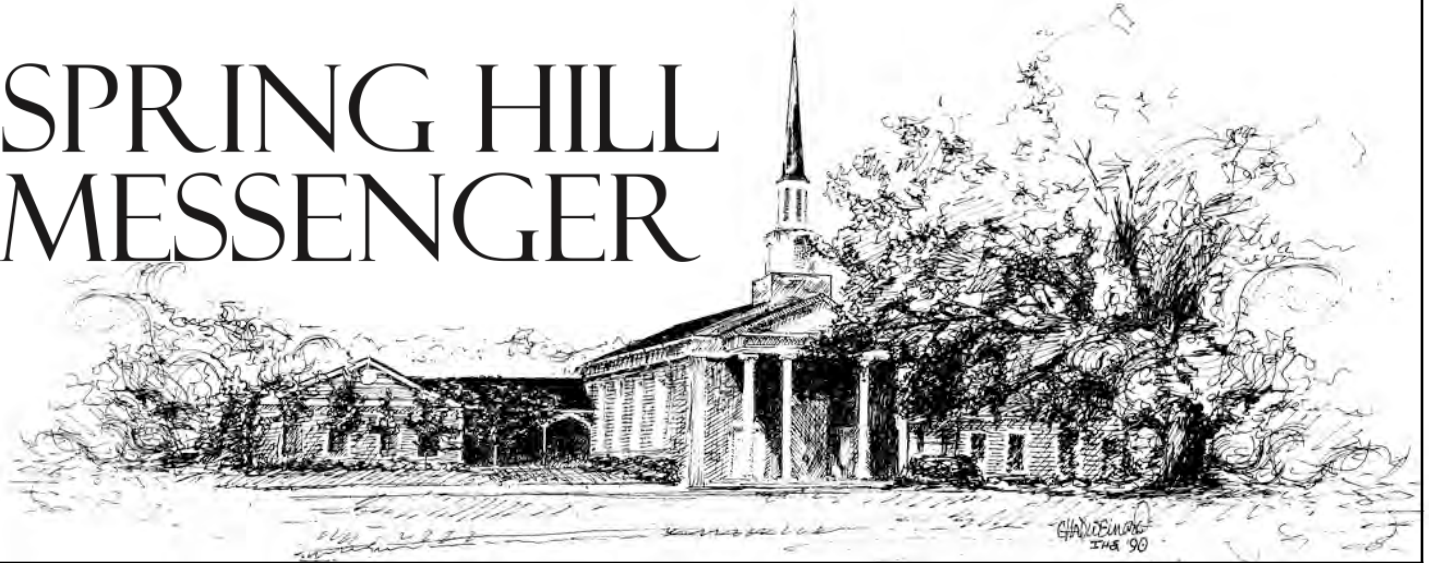


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 66, Number 14, May, 2010

From the Pastor...

Our Book of Order states that the Six Great Ends of the Church are (1) the proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind; (2) the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; (3) the maintenance of divine worship; (4) the preservation of truth; (5) the promotion of social righteousness; (6) and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

I am grateful that our spiritual forebears (both distant and near in time) expressed the church's mission in such clear and scripturally based language. The challenge that is always before us is whether we are fulfilling the charge given us. The charge is of such magnitude that we know we're not capable of fulfilling it unless the Holy Spirit intervenes and does through us what we can't do on our own. Fortunately, God's Spirit is doing that holy work throughout our congregation. The result is that Spring Hill is being stretched and strengthened in many ways. The 40 Days of Purpose is one example. The growth and quality of the music programs and educational programs are another. Our attention to youth ministry and our mission on the USA campus are two other examples of our response to the Spirit's leading. Another is the funding of many



charities in our city and missions in various parts of the world. The most recent example is the building of a chapel, a place of worship and meditation that will meet our deepest personal need for communion with God.

In God's perfect timing, the chapel is being built in the spring of the year as a reminder that God makes all things new. The chapel represents a new springtime in our church's life. It's already serving as "architectural evangelism" in that people who are not members of Spring Hill are asking with excitement, "What's going up?" I wish I had kept count of how often I've been asked that very question. The answer of course is, "A house of prayer is being built to the Glory of God, a sacred space where people will find a private retreat as well as a place to worship with others at midweek and on Sunday evenings; a place where services for healing and wholeness will be held, and where small weddings and funerals will take place; a holy space where people will encounter the living Christ."

In the deepest sense the chapel is a visible reminder that worship is not a once-a-week experience on Sunday morning. Worship is a way of life, an experience of gratitude, a mindset through which we seek God's guidance and the

continued on next page...

means by which we grow in faith and wisdom. And while worship is a way of life, we nevertheless need special places to go to find solace and inspiration. The chapel will be just such a place for many generations to come. We will celebrate that fact when as a congregation we have a ceremony to place the cornerstone, an event of great significance which will not be long in coming.

Let me suggest your reading again the Six Great Ends of the Church, and as you do so, try to imagine the grace that will welcome those who will worship within the chapel's walls. And then give God thanks that through His love and providence we will soon have a small and holy and intimate place to meet Him and to worship Him.

Yours in Him,

Norman

Chapel Update

As you read this, the walls on the chapel should almost be in place. Roof trusses will soon be starting. Then the exterior finish on the walls will begin with etched stucco on the front to resemble stone and lapsiding on the sides and back. The lap siding will look like old traditional wood siding but will be made out of a cementitious material called HardiPlank®. The trim pieces will be polyurethane. This will give us as near a maintenance free exterior as possible.

The windows will be double pane low e glass for the best of energy efficiency and sound proofing. The insulation will be an open cell type sprayed in the walls and on the underside of the roof deck. Again for optimum in energy efficiency and sound proofing.

I will continue to give you a preview of what you can expect to see in the coming months. We are still accepting gifts and memorials for the chapel fund.

If you have any questions or would like to visit the construction site feel free to call me on my cell phone at 379-0754.



**Yours in Christ,
Rick True**

Crown Financial Study

Another Crown Financial Study may be offered over 10 weeks in the summer. Because of the small group format and the need to order materials for the study, registration is required.

Individuals and couples are welcome to participate. The day and time is to be determined by the group. Please contact the church office, Bobby Crow or Christopher Jones if you are interested or would like more information.

Current Scriptures Class Schedule

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| May 2 | Galatians 2:20 |
| May 9 | Ephesians 4:24 |
| May 16 | Philippians 3:20-21 |
| May 23 | Philippians 4:8-9 |

Current Issues Class Schedule

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 2 | Robert Edington – “In the Beginning” |
| May 9 | Philip Jung – “China” |
| May 16 | TBA |
| May 23 | Billy McLean – “Update on Haiti and What Can We Do?” |
| May 30 | TBA |

Molly's Musings

*He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;
yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

It was 1:00 a.m. the morning of Good Friday 2010. A ragged and visibly tired band of college students had arrived at my front door. We planned to make a silent half a mile trek from my house through the Botanical Gardens pine forest and up to the top of the 10th hole on Azalea City's golf course for a time of reflection and prayer. The idea was that the hour of 1:00 a.m. would correspond with the hour of our Lord's arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and we, the children of God, would follow Christ's example and use the time for preparation in prayer for the coming 3 days.

In the garden, Jesus told Peter, James and John to watch and pray, and that is exactly what we did. What did we see? As we walked in silence, our minds tried to fathom what Christ must have experienced as He walked as a bound prisoner from the garden to the home of Annals, the ex high priest for His first trial. We envisioned what it would have been like for Peter and John as they followed their Savior at a

distance. As I gazed into the misty distance of the pine forest, I wondered if evil lurked in the darkness as it did on that night so long ago. Although that thought sent chills up my spine, we all felt a distinct but indescribable sense of protection. We heard the hoot of a single owl in the distance and wondered if creation somehow spoke to Christ on the night of His arrest – words of encouragement and comfort as He walked in the company of His enemies, abandoned by the men He loved so dearly. That is what we saw and heard while on watch.

What did we pray? It's amazing how such a trek will focus your prayers. We prayed for our own relationships with Christ. We

prayed for our devotion and obedience. We prayed for the world. We felt burdened for the unbelievers in our lives. We cried out to our Creator, and somehow we knew and felt He was there with us.

There's no way for us to truly grasp what that night and the following days were like for Jesus. The truth is this 1:00 a.m. walk was just an exercise with a small group of college students who wanted to be spiritually prepared for Easter. Even so, I don't think any of us will ever forget the sights and the sounds and prayers of that brisk April night. We may have missed His incarnation by a couple of thousand years, but I have no doubt that when we gather in His name to seek His face, His presence is more real and more tangible than ever. My friends, He is risen! He is raised indeed!

In Him,

Molly Broders

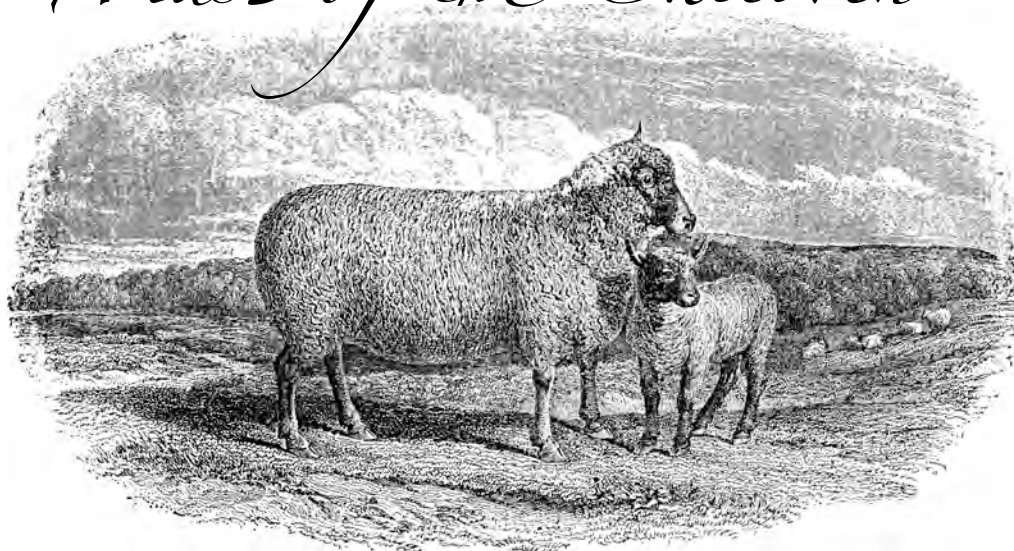




Music Notes by Randall Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Concert

“Mass of the Children”



by **John Rutter**

Presented by

95 Performers, including

SHPC's Chancel Choir, The Concert Choir of Mobile's Singing Children

Chamber Ensemble of winds, harp, organ, and percussion

Megan King, soprano

Patrick Jacobs, baritone

Randall Sheets, conductor

Also including other selections by Mobile's Singing Children; Susan Hoitt, conductor

Sunday, May 16, 3:00 p.m.

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

10 Westminster Way, Mobile

(on Old Shell Road, 1/2 mi east of University Blvd)

www.shpc.us

251-342-1550

donations will be gratefully accepted

continued on next page...

Notes from the composer:

I wrote Mass of the Children in late 2002 and early 2003. The occasion of its first performance in February 2003 was a concert in New York's Carnegie Hall involving children's choir, adult choir, soprano and baritone soloists, and orchestra. I had always wanted to write a work combining children's choir with adult performers, not only because I find the sound of children's voices irresistible but also because I wanted to repay a debt. As a boy soprano in my school choir I had been thrilled whenever our choir took part in adult works with children's choir parts, such as Mahler's Third Symphony and the Britten War Requiem, and years later I remembered this experience and wanted to write something that would give children a similar opportunity to perform alongside adult professionals. (note by John Rutter, from CD "Mass of the Children" --Collegium Records COLCD 129)

The role of the children's choir is to add a further dimension to the traditional Latin Mass sung by the adult

choir, sometimes commenting, sometimes amplifying the meaning and mood. The Mass itself ... is mainly sung by the adult choir or the soloists. The children sometimes sing the Latin... but elsewhere they and the two soloists sing specially chosen English texts which in some way reflect upon or illuminate the Latin [for example, William Blake's famous poem "The Lamb" is paired with the Latin *Agnus Dei* translated "Lamb of God."] The work opens with two verses from Bishop Thomas Ken's morning hymn for the Scholars of Winchester College, and it closes with the children singing his evening hymn with Tallis' timeless melody, as the adults intone the traditional *Dona nobis pacem*, a prayer for peace. This creates a framework (from waking to sleeping) within which other texts and moods appear in kaleidoscopic succession, like events in a day or landmarks in a life. (note by Louise Luegner, © Collegium Records.)

Note: On May 31, Mobile's Singing Children will be performing "Mass of the Children" at Carnegie Hall, under the direction of the composer.

LECTIONERY FOR THE LORD'S DAY: May 2010

2 **5th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 11:1-19; Ps. 148; Rev. 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

9 **6th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10,
21:22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

16 **7th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97; Rev. 22:12-14
16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

23 **Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9;
Ps. 104: 24-34; 35b
Rom. 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

30 **Trinity Sunday**
Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5:1-5
John 16:12-15



Small Groups Can Have a Large Impact

I have been part of a small group many times in my life since becoming a follower of Jesus. As a college student, I studied the Bible and prayed with a handful of other students, and we grew in Christ and reached out to others at a time in life when for many, the temptation is to move in other directions.

When I was a seminary student, Jennie and I were part of a small group of students and spouses. That group was important enough to us that we were instrumental in organizing small groups throughout the seminary student body.

When we had young children, we were part of a small group at the church in St. Petersburg where I was the associate pastor. The other couples in the group also had children, and one thing we did was to encourage one another in our efforts to be faithful and creative as parents.

In each case above, we came together in a home around the study of the Bible, the sharing of our blessings and concerns, and praying for one another. We prayed for one another during the week.

In recent years I've begun hearing about another

component of small groups: outreach or service. A small group works together occasionally to cook and serve meals in a homeless shelter, and prays for those they serve. Another group had a number who mentored students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This group encouraged one another as mentors and prayed for their students. This isn't part of my experience, but I think it would be both rewarding and effective.

I write this during the first week of the 40 Days of Purpose. The small group element of 40 Days offers us a new beginning with small groups. I'm drawn to think about the rich potential of more ongoing small groups for the Spring Hill Church.

We may ask if we don't already have small groups. Certainly the congregation gathers in groupings of various sizes for a variety of purposes. In *Small Group Life*, Stan Ott describes a small group as "...a band of seven to 12 persons (or possibly as few as two or three) who gather regularly to discuss a biblical text, share joys and concerns, pray for one another, and send each other to ministry." Those four elements each contribute to the group's impact both in the lives of the group

members, and through them to people and situations they touch.

Considering small groups raises at least a couple of questions. One is the future of your 40 Days of Purpose group. If you are in the 40 Days of Purpose, would you consider extending your group after the 40 days? Would you like to continue to meet, study and pray—and perhaps do some ministry together? How do the others in your group feel about that? As the 40 days proceed, give it some thought.

The other question is if you're part of a small gathering of people in the church that doesn't do all four of Stan Ott's elements—study, share, pray, and send—would your group be open to changes to incorporate those things? For example, if you meet now for Bible study, it wouldn't take much to broaden the purpose of your group and add personal sharing and prayer at the end of it.

My prayer is that God would give each of you the experience of a really uplifting and empowering small group.

Pastor Sid

From the Stewardship Committee. . .

With a great launching on April 11th, Spring Hill Presbyterian embarked on a 40 day discovery of what it means to be purpose driven and Spirit led. With Rick Warren's famous book as our guide and with a memorable video to direct us, I was one of many who were struck by Warren's thought of what God will ask when we see Him face to face: **(1) What have you done with My Son, Jesus Christ? (2) What have you done with what has been given you?**

I think you'll agree that Rick Warren is not far off track and may be right on target. What I can say with certainty is that if we can answer those two questions now with love, gratitude and enthusiasm, we know that we're on the path God would have us walk. Do we have many miles to go? Of course, but even Paul said the same when he wrote: "No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 13,14) I don't know about you, but Paul gives me great comfort in my relationship with Jesus. Yes, I am following Jesus, and yes there are many miles to go before all will have been fulfilled in the purposes He's given me. But this I won't forget: We are called to press forward trusting Him and following Him. In doing that, our God-given purposes will be fulfilled, and so will everyone's purpose be fulfilled who follows Him. That's the main reason the Stewardship Committee is so pleased Spring Hill is taking seriously the call to be purpose driven and Spirit led.

Your Stewardship Committee believes that one of the purposes given us by God is to tithe so that we may have the joy of experiencing what it is to live according to God's priorities. We encourage you to put God's tithe first and experience for yourself the blessedness of living in His purposes. Below is a prayer that I invite you to pray now and throughout the next month.

Dear Lord and Giver of all, open our minds and hearts to be receptive to the movement of Your Spirit in our congregation. Help us to focus on the works You have planned for each one of us. We know we miss the mark daily, but we trust that Your grace will bring us back onto that path and into that purpose You have prepared for us. Keep always before us Your priorities. Give us strength to be faithful. And guide us moment by moment to Him Who is our Savior, and in Whose name we pray. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship Committee



40 Days of Purpose!

Our Season of Spiritual Growth continues

Sunday May 2nd - Discipleship
(You Were Created to Become Like Christ!)

Sunday May 9th - Ministry
(You Were Shaped to Serve God!)

Sunday May 16th - Evangelism
(You Were Made for a Mission!)

Celebration Sunday

May 23rd, 6:00-7:30 pm



Roll up your sleeves in Service!

Victory Health Partners, a faith based medical clinic for uninsured adults, depends on volunteers to serve our patient with care. Positions available in triage, the dispensary and our medication assistance program. Skills required are compassion, a desire to serve others and a willingness to roll up your sleeves. Benefits include flexible days and hours, great co-workers and our complete gratitude. Call Margaret Jordan, 591-3006



Young and Rest of Us

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 7th when we'll enjoy fellowship and friendly competition at the bowling alley (time and place tba).

Presbyterian Women News

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

Birthday Celebration and Offering

This year the Birthday Celebration will revive a Spring Hill PW tradition. For the last couple of years the Birthday Celebration has been held in the evening. This year it will be a luncheon held May 12 at the church. A service will be held prior to the luncheon where the Birthday Offering will be received, the budget presented and the officers installed.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Presbyterian Women will celebrate the Fellowship of the Least Coin during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 9. The Session approved the recognition at its March meeting.

According to the Presbyterian Women website, the Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Fellowship of the Least Coin, an ecumenical prayer movement, was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India. She believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith as they

Circle 3 has decided to revive the tradition of bringing china, silver and glassware from home. At least eight ladies are expected to dress the eight tables that will be used during the luncheon.

This year the Birthday offering will be divided between two projects: The Kindergarten and Childcare center in Kirkuk, Iraq, and the R.I.S.E. (Reach-Improve-Strengthen-Empower) Project at Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY.

prayed for peace and reconciliation and set aside their country's least coin as a symbol of that prayer.

As coins are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. May 2, May Friendship Day, is the traditional day for collecting the Least Coin Offering.

According to the website grants are made by an international committee for special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness-building among women and relief throughout the world.



First Thursday Luncheon

Our final First Thursday Luncheon gathering for fellowship and a program happens on Thursday, May 6. (Not to worry – we'll start again in September). We'll go via church bus on a field trip and have a picnic lunch prepared for us by our own chef extraordinaire Pat Stoll. Our destination is the five Rivers Facility on the causeway where we will see a video of the Delta area followed by a tour of the grounds. Wear comfortable shoes for that part of the day. If walking around is not your desire, you can get an early glimpse of the wild life museum (that the walkers will see later) and maybe even see an alligator. Bus departure is at the usual meeting time(11:45) from the church parking lot. Call the church office to reserve a seat. If weather is inclement, we'll picnic indoors.



Presbyterian Voice Heard on the Web



The Presbyterian Voice is now available online. Current news from around the Synod of Living Waters can now be found at www.presbyvoice.org. You may also subscribe to email updates by going to the website. Once subscribed, you will begin receiving every other week updates of news from around the Synod.

The Presbyterian Voice online will include Presbytery news. In addition, there will be periodic blogs from favorite columnists including Ray Waddle, Dee Wade and Anne Apple.

Love your print edition of the Voice? Don't worry, it is not going away. The Presbyterian Voice will now be published twice a year. Your presbytery page will be included, as will news pages and columnists. Not receiving the Voice by traditional mail? You may subscribe by emailing the editor, Janet Tuck, at voiceditor@bellsouth.net.

A long-standing source for news from around the Synod, The Presbyterian Voice is expanding in order to reach more readers with news of the mission of the Synod of Living Waters. Whether you receive the print edition of The Voice, become an online subscriber or receive both versions of the Voice, we seek to keep you up to date on all the mission news from around the Synod.



www.presbyvoice.org
www.synodoflivingwaters.org

Library News

3rd in a series all about periodicals available in the church library.

Included in the library's current periodical subscriptions devoted to things Presbyterian is *Presbyterians Today*. This one differs primarily in a more laity approach to the denomination. For example the April issue continues the 3rd in a series on the **Book of Confessions**.

It tells the reader that in 1560 the Scottish parliament assigned six men (all named John) the task of writing a document in plain-spoken language to express the faith that they felt should be the nations' established religion. John Knox is believed to have been largely responsible for the result which was

narrative and not an abstract propositional statement, unlike other confessions. It reflected the Biblical approach that the Christian's role is as a participant rather than a cognitive in God's story.

As part of the subscription the library receives one copy of the Advent devotional and one copy of the Lenten guide. Additional copies are available for wider distribution. This monthly publication was once sent to each SHPC household but was dropped to cut costs in a budget crunch in the 90's. Back issues will be displayed in the library this month.

CHURCH CALENDAR-MAY

- 2 Youth Sunday
Senior Breakfast
Purpose Driven Life
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 4 Committees
- 5 Pres. Women's Coordinating Team
9:30 a.m.
- 6 1st Thursday Lunch 12:45 a.m.
- 6-7 Mother's Day Out & Weekday
School Music Program – Noon
- 7 Young and Rest of Us Bowling
- 9 Purpose Driven Life
- 11 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
Session – 7:00 pm.
- 12 Presbyterian Women's General
meeting and Lunch – 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Meals-on-Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 16 Confirmation – 11:00 a.m. followed
by reception
Purpose Driven Life
Concert: Mass of the Children
3 p.m.
- 23 Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Purpose Driven Life – Celebration
Sunday – 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 30 Summer Schedule begins –
Worship at 10:00
Christian Education Classes
at 9:00 a.m.



Memorials have been received for the following:

Warren McCrummen
Bill Culp
Jennifer Hanusovsky

From the following:

Fred and Judy Bodie
Jerry and Jill Watkins
Frances and Duncan McDonald
Hilary Cabaniss
Charles and Linda Langston
Bobby and Sara Ann Clark

Honoraria have been received for the following:

Norman McCrummen
Bron Dixon
Bill Layfield

From the following:

Sarah M. Johnson
Hilary Cabanis

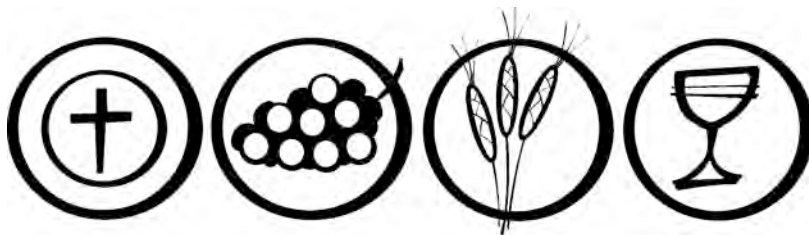


We Rejoice

We rejoice with Rick and Judy Stout in the marriage of their son, Paul A. Stout to Danielle Leigh Cross on April 10. And we rejoice with Susan and Cort Schlichting in the birth of a grandson, Jonathan Carl Jennings on April 5 in Nashville (Parents are Erika and John Jennings);

We share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Bryan Hack in the death of his sister, Lisa Timmerman on March 31 in North Carolina; with Mary Beth and Buddy Culp in the death of their son, Bill, on April 3 in Aiken, SC; with Mike Reid, Sandra Richards and Grace Reid in the death of T Dwight Reid, on April 6; With Ann Weinacker, in the death of her brother, Rick Dinges, in Huntsville, on April 21.



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

Welcome

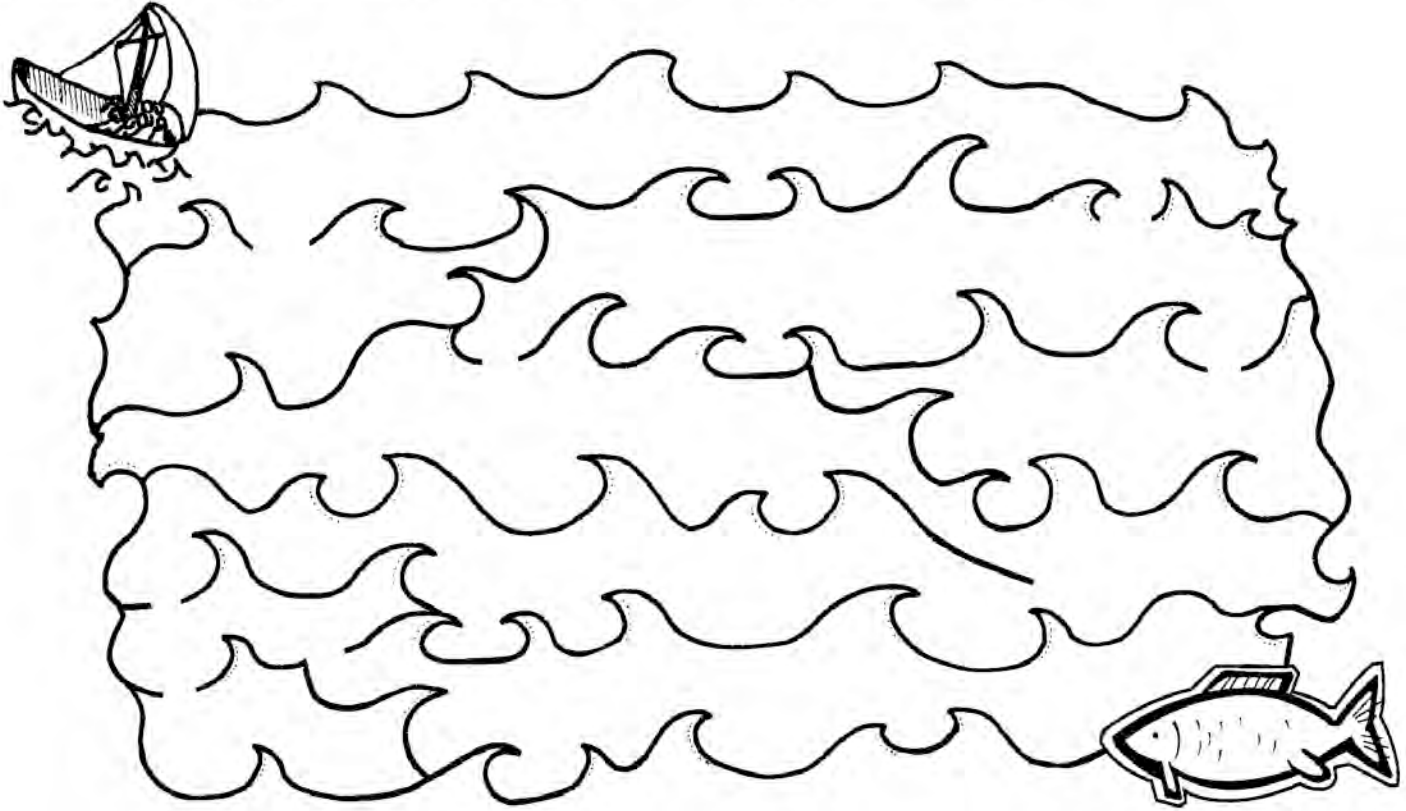
to our New Members

Dr. Robert O. Harris
Portier Place
4363 Old Shell Road #311
Mobile, AL 36608

John Tyson
3759 Claridge Road N.
Mobile, AL 36608

Find the fish

Some of Jesus' disciples were fishers. Follow the maze to help them find the fish.



Crack the Code

Use this code to learn what Jesus said to the fishers.

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a = * | f = ☼ | k = ◆ | n = ○ | r = ☺ | u = ☒ |
| d = ■ | h = ☯ | l = ☆ | o = ☼ | s = ✨ | w = ☆ |
| e = ❖ | i = ☺ | m = † | p = ☼ | t = ▲ | y = ⇨ |

Answer: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

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Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

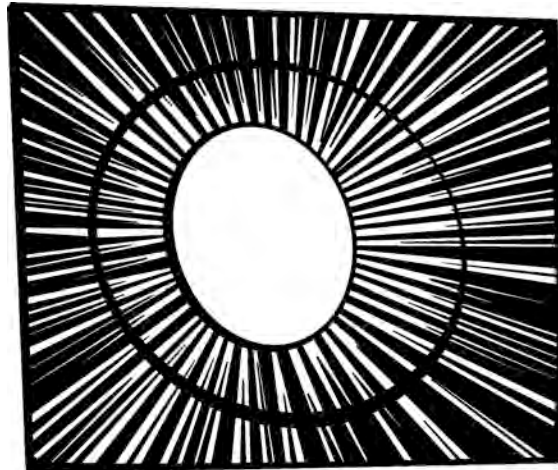
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Early on the first day of the week.

John 20:1

Our Sunday Summer Schedule Begins on May 30.
Christian Education Classes at 9:00 a.m.
The morning worship service at 10:00 a.m.