

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 62

November 2006

No. 11

From the Pastor...

Please plan to be in one of the services on November 12th. On that Sunday, we will dedicate our pledges for 2007 and renew our Baptismal vow. For the past three months, my sermons have focused on the gift and practice of faith. My hope continues to be that as Christians we will nurture the faith God has given us, and that we will use it for His kingdom and purposes. Stewardship of our financial resources is the most significant way in which we can do that. By giving God His tithe, we can do ever so much more for His church and world than we can do individually. Of course God knew that long before we did, and that is why He brought each one of us into the body and fellowship of His Son; for this is clear: we were not given faith to hide or to enjoy privately. We have faith by God's gracious design to care for His people by sharing the Gospel in every imaginable way. That privilege will be our focus on November 12 when we renew our Christian vows and give our pledges to God.

The proposed budget for 2007 is \$1,139,735.00. Of that amount, \$272,037.00 will go to benevolences. The remaining funds will underwrite the work of our various ministries and programs, as well as maintain our building and grounds. By Session mandate, we give 26.5 percent of our pledges to charities and missions beyond our campus. That's a figure of over twice the Biblical tithe. My hope is that someday it will come to 30 percent of our pledged revenues.

Please either bring your pledge card on the 12th or return your card to the church before the 12th. And may it be that by our pledges we will show our God and Savior – and one another – the depth of our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy.

Yours in Him,
Norman

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

St. Paul's Episcopal will host the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. This includes the congregations of St. Paul's Episcopal, Forest Hill United Methodist, St. Ignatius Catholic, Spring Hill Baptist and our church. There will be combined choirs from all five congregations. The offering will go to support our joint project of the Wheel-A-Meal program. A reception will follow the worship service.

Music Notes

Schedule for Choirs Participation in Worship during November (subject to change)

Children's Choirs (age 4 – grade 5) November 5 and 19 at 11:00 service

Youth Chorale: Nov. 19, 11:00

Bronze Ringers (Youth): Nov. 5 (Jr. Highs only) and Nov. 19, 11:00

Spring Hill Ringers: Nov. 12, 11:00

Chancel Choir: Each Sunday at 11:00

Sunday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.; **Silverwood Quartet "To Drive the Cold Winter Away"** A Free Concert celebrating Winter and Christmas. Featuring area favorites Andra Bohnet on flute, Tom Morley on violin, along with viola and cello, this lively and beautiful concert will set the tone for a festive holiday season.

Music in Worship during Advent and Christmas at SHPC

December 3,

Morning Worship Services: include Christmas Music by our Handbell Choirs

December 10 at Morning Worship Services

Cantata "Rejoice", composed by Anders Ohrwall;
performed by the Chancel Choir and wind instruments

December 17 at morning worship services

"Lessons and Carols" The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song,
featuring all of SHPC's vocal groups.

Sunday, December 24

11:00 a.m. One morning worship service

6:00 p.m. Carols and Candlelight Service,

with music by our children's choirs and Youth Chorale

10:00 p.m. Carols, Candlelight and Communion, with music by the Chancel Choir

Molly's Musings
"Love, Support, and Encourage this Child"

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your part-time Interim Director of Christian Education until December 31st. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with and among all of you once more. My office hours are currently Monday – Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as Sunday mornings. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any need in the area of Christian Education.

Every family has schedules, routines and traditions. Over the last 6 years, it has been my family's tradition to go out to lunch after worship on Sunday and to invite anyone who will join us. Usually, it is the youth of the church that accept our invitation. On a typical Sunday, we stuff as many people that will fit into our car and head off to eat.

Meg McCrummen is one of the youth that frequently accompanies us to lunch. One Sunday, when Hannah was about a year old, Meg sang a "Buckle Up" song to her when she and the youth piled into the car. From that Sunday on, Meg would sing that song every time she got in the car with Hannah. Even though it didn't happen every week, this song became their little ritual.

When Hannah was about 16 months old, I put her in her car seat and began to buckle her up. She then proceeded to sing the words and some semblance of the tune to the song Meg would occasionally sing to her. Astonished, I asked her to repeat what she was saying. She looked at me and with great enthusiasm exclaimed, "Buckle up everybody. Buckle up!"

In that moment I learned a lesson to remember in my new position as your Interim Director of CE: you can NEVER underestimate the influence you can have on the life of a child. If Hannah can learn and remember words to a song that she's only been exposed to a few times, imagine what opportunities we have to teach our faith to children we see for an hour every Sunday! If we are faithful and dedicated to the teaching of our children and youth, they WILL learn the life of being a disciple of Christ.

Right now the CE programs for our children and youth are facing some fairly immediate and large challenges that can be easily overcome by willing volunteers. We need confirmation teachers, a computer and a theatre leader for the Workshop Rotation Model, and shepherds for every grade level in Journeys of Faith. In the next few weeks, the CE Committee will be actively and thoughtfully recruiting members of the congregation to fill these holes. If you receive a phone call from anyone on the committee, please prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling you to the Christian training of our most precious gift: our children.

I witnessed a baptism in our church today and it reminded me of the vow we take **every** time a baby is baptized. "If you promise to love, support and encourage this child, say "We will." I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us to fulfill the promises we have made to all of our children. Whether it is being a Sunday School teacher or children's choir director or a youth leader or an Elder Sponsor to a confirmand or someone who commits to praying for our young people, we can be sure God is calling each of us to minister to our children in some capacity.

We made a promise to a child today and we can model a faithful life by not forgetting to love, support and encourage them tomorrow. You can never underestimate the influence for Christ you can have on a child.

Yours in Christ,
Molly

P.S. If you are recruited to be a volunteer in the CE program, there will be a training session after church on November 19th. Your duties will begin December 10th.

Mark's Remarks

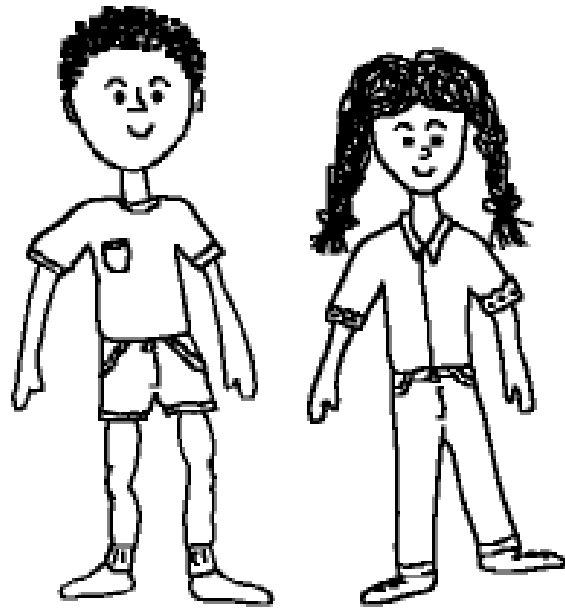
- Passion for Compassion -

In July the Sr. High youth went to Daytona Beach, Florida to attend Student Life at the Beach. This conference was lead by Louie Giglio. The theme of the week was based on the scripture from Hebrews 13: 15-16 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." In this scripture Paul is saying that we should praise God in all that we do, and that we should not forget to do good and share with others. I cannot put enough emphasis on DO NOT forget to do good and share with others. It is very evident and bold in the scripture. This is one of our callings as Christians, to praise God and commit to serving others.

Louie shared with the youth his passion and love for Compassion International. "Compassion International is one of the nation's largest Christian child sponsorship organizations, working with more than 65 denominations and thousands of indigenous church partners in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Since 1952, Compassion's revolutionary approach, through one-to-one Christian child sponsorship, has touched the lives of more than a million children. Compassion has been recognized for its financial integrity with top ratings and recommendations by several "watchdog" organizations." (taken directly from www.compassion.com) During one of Louie's talks, he charged the youth to get involved with Compassion in some way. He shared with us a new program Compassion is trying to evolve called Child Survival Center. Through this center hundreds upon hundreds of lives can be touched and saved. Read over these astonishing facts as reported by the World Food Program:

- Over 27,000 children die every day
- In parts of Africa life expectancy is so low you do not receive a name until you reach 5 years of age.
- 50+ percent of Ethiopian children are stunted in height and do not grow properly because of malnutrition.
- Just under 40 percent of children in Africa are chronically malnourished.

This year, there will be a twist in the service component of PYC. We will model our service work after the verse in Hebrews; in our work we will praise God through serving others. The Sr. High youth who attended Student Life vowed to uphold a commitment to raise \$30,000 that would build a child survival center in a third world country. Through this program, children and their families will be given prenatal care, nutritious meals, spiritual nurturing, ongoing health care and much more. This is a different approach for our service aspect. Whereas past years' service projects have involved an afternoon or evening's time frame, our "Compassion Cash" theme will be an ongoing project of fundraising events. As Louie challenged us, I challenge you: do as Hebrews 13: 15-16 says, and let's start making a difference today.



SJPC Play Day

Who: kids ages 1–3 Nursery

4 – 11 Activities

What: Parents afternoon out

When: Saturday December 9th, 2:00–6:00

Where: SJPC Bullard Building

Why: To help benefit SJPC youth's

Compassion Fundraiser

Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, November 8 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Sylvia Weinard (1601 Woodspointe Circle)

#2 at 9:15 a.m. in the Craft Room of the Bullard Building.
(nursery provided at church at 9:00 a.m.)

#3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

#4 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor

After the lesson, Circle 2 will meet in the craft room of the Bullard Building to decorate stockings (supplies will be provided) for The Mulherin Home and fill shoe boxes for SHPC college students. Please bring goodies (ideas: candy pens, Christmas trinkets, cards) and shoe boxes. There are 23 girls and 25 boys.

Congratulations to Jo Barton who received the Honorary Life Membership at the General Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Church on October 11. Each year, one lady is chosen to be the Honorary Life Member because of her dedication, commitment and leadership in the Church.

The design of the honorary Life Membership pin was adopted in celebration of coming together of Presbyterian Women from the former United Presbyterian Church I, the U.S.A., and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), The caring supportive hands represent women who seek to build an inclusive community of Presbyterian Women. The leaf represents growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The dove indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world, shown in the globe. At the center of the design is the cross, by which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ who is at the center of our lives. The overall design is of a butterfly, symbol of newness in Christ and the emergence of a new creation, Presbyterian Women.

If you ever see a Presbyterian woman wearing this pin, you know she has been distinguished as receiving the honorary Life Member Award.



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be part of the sanctuary decorations during the Advent and Christmas season. Following the Christmas Eve services, these plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Service Committee in the name of the church. There will be a tear-off in the bulletin to use if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Cost is \$10.50. Deadline is Monday, December 4.

Stewardship

We have entered the season to consider what we can do individually to support the mission of our church. As members of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church and followers of Christ, we have the privilege to do far more together through our tithing than what we could do alone. The challenge before us is to provide the best programs and to support the missions and charities beyond our walls and campus.

The new year is of significance in that your Session is determined to strengthen and expand the church's offerings to the congregation and the community. After careful consideration, every committee has submitted a budget which they believe reflects God's will for our church. I believe their budgets do.

So I ask that you pray about your commitment for the 2007 operating budget. I hope that this time of discernment will prove, as it has for me, a spiritual blessing.

You will want to know that as of September 30th, we have collected \$755,970 against our annual pledges of \$1,086,555 (This is 70% of our pledged offerings, with 75% of the year passed). We should be mindful of the on-going operational needs of the church and our need to stay current with our pledges. My deepest thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Yours in Christ,
R. Gordon Mowry

Thank you!

We would like to thank the Week Day School for the twelve new round tables they purchased for the church and for a donation which was also given by the School for new furniture in several of our offices. We greatly appreciate their generosity for these items and for the many gifts they have given to the church through the years. Judy Heiter is the Director of the School.

First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday Lunch will be on November 2 at 11:45 a.m. Robert Edington, our guest speaker; will share with us the history of Mobile. Join us as we explore this geographic area and discover many interesting facts and enjoy one of Pat Stoll's delicious lunches (\$5.00) in the Bullard Building Dining Room. Please call the church office or use the tear-off in the bulletin for reservations.

Blood Drive

The Service Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered to work and those who donated blood at the recent blood drive. Our goal was to collect 21 units. 26 units were donated and 30 people tried to give. A special thanks to Naomi Turner for her work and coordination of this drive.

Welcome to our new members

Brian and Elizabeth Campbell
101 Fenwick Rd.
Mobile, AL 36608
Phone: 342-4364

Note from Tom Boone

Thank you for the support that you have extended both to me and Carrie this fall and through the summer! I am enjoying seeing many of you around town and catching up with all that God is doing in our lives as well as in yours. I have appreciated the many prayers that you have offered on Carrie's and my behalf not only recently, but since February, 2005. Carrie is doing very well, and I am, too! I wanted to provide you an update about some exciting news for me. I was able to complete the penultimate text of my dissertation and was able to send it to the Theology Department at Loyola University Chicago by its October 15 deadline! For those of you who may be interested the title is "Christology and Belief in the Jewish Nouns of John: Rhetorical Self-Definition and the Ideological Breach between Johannine Christianity and First Century C.E. Traditional Judaism." I am waiting to hear from my committee that I am ready to proceed to an oral defense in December, and when that happens I will let you know. Thank you to each of you who, week after week, have prodded me toward completing this work.

People are asking me "What is next?" I will let you know what comes next as soon as I know! My parents will be moving to Mobile in early 2007. My grandmother will follow them here in the spring. Carrie will continue to attend St. Paul's through her senior year, and I will be working in this area. Often, God does not reveal His next steps for me until just before they are to unfold. Faith, though, is not resting assured in those things that we know, but in resting assured that the Holy Spirit will not fail us. You are in my prayers, and I continue to covet yours.

Peace,
Tom

Spring Hill Travelers A Beautiful Day Across the Bay

Leave the church at 9 am on December 8th, for a trip to Fairhope. Decorated boutiques, sidewalk street artists, and the aura of the holidays will be in the air. Have time to look, shop and enjoy the festive surroundings. Then a bit before 1:00, we will journey to the beautifully restored Grand Hotel for a leisurely lunch, dining overlooking Mobile Bay. No rush and our bus will be back at the church at 3:30.



Reserve your seat on this fun trip no later than December 1st with your \$60.00 check payable to Liz Hill, 342-9756, 217 Berwyn Drive West, #220, Mobile, AL 36608

From the Library

Overcoming Fear Without Education

“We have nothing to fear except fear itself.” If this is the current problem then education is the answer. The library’s current book array on Arabs, Islam, and culture of the Middle East will help educate you to overcome or, at least, understand what you fear.

Since the Persian Gulf conflict the library’s collection has grown but few have taken advantage of this investment. The large attendance at the Wednesday night dinners attest to the interest, but you can further educate yourself and “zero-in-on” aspects of this global issue for yourself.

Loan periods run approximately three or four weeks and renewals are possible with just a phone call. Let’s be literate, not illiterate for a change.



*What does it profit,
my brothers and
sisters, if some one
claims to have faith
but has not works?
Can such faith
save? If a brother or*

*sister is ill-clad and in lack of
daily food, and one of you
says to them, “Go in peace,
be warmed and
filled,” without
giving them the
things needed for
the body, what does
it profit?*

(James 2:14-16)

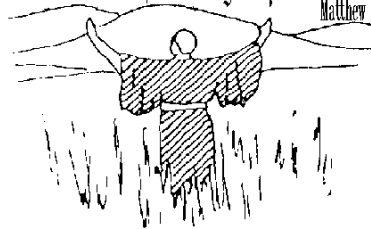


“Love to pray—feel often during the day the need for prayer, and take trouble to pray. Prayer enlarges the heart. Ask and seek, and your heart will grow big enough to receive him and keep him as your own.”

—Mother Teresa

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Matthew 28:18-19



Personality has the power to open many doors, but character must keep them open.

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a turkey leg for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.





We rejoice with Jim and Nancy Adams in the marriage of their son, James W. Adam III and Heather Huseth on October 14 in Milwaukee, WI.



We rejoice with Barbara and Owen Drey in the birth of a grandson, Gaines Wilburn Drey, on August 21 (Parents are Owen and Kathryn Drey); with Mike and Laura Reid in the birth of a daughter, Caroline Grace, on September 23; and with Keith and Catherine Rivers in the birth of a daughter, Amelia Brown, on October 3 (Grandparents are Kay and Gordon Korb).



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Bonnie Jean Early in the death of her sister, Betty Jane Cook, on September 25 in Colorado; with Robert Weaver in the death of his brother, Lewis Weaver, on October 2; and with Lanier Cauley in the death of his wife, Faye, on October 16.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Mary Kathryn Bryars
Faye Cauley
Betty Huckabee
Floyd Waldrop

From the following:

Sarah Freeman
Clayton and Stuart Smith
Edith Cox
Billy and Sue McLean
Janie Sims
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wise
Ken Reid
Anita Presley on behalf of Margaret Miller's tennis friends
Lila Dexter
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Frank and Jean Nash

Lectioary for the Lord's Day

November 2006

- 5 *31st Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Ruth 1:1-18; Ps. 146; Heb. 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34
- 12 *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Ps. 127
Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
- 19 *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
1 Sam. 1:4-20; 1 Sam. 2:1-10
Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;
Mark 13:1-8
- 26 *Christ the King/Reign of Christ*
2 Sam. 23:1-7; Ps. 132:1-12 13-18)
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



God's blessings never cease.

November 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		

Church Calendar

November 2006

- 1 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
Supper and Bible Study – 5:45 p.m.
- 2 First Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 6 Committees
- 8 Circles
Supper and Bible Study – 5:45 p.m.
- 10 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 10-12 Senior High Retreat
- 12 Commitment Sunday
- 13 Committee Draft – 6:00 p.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
- 15 Supper and Bible Study – 5:45 p.m.
- 20 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – St. Paul's Episcopal – 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving – Church Office closed
- 24 Church Office closed

