

# Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 63

November 2007

No. 11

## From the Senior Pastor...

November is filled with special opportunities for Spring Hill.

On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>, Bill Watts will present a three-man play beginning at 5:30 p.m. called "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger." Bill is a fabulous actor; you'll remember him from his "Screwtape" performances.

On Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, Thomas A. Tarrants III, president of the C. S. Lewis Institute in northern Virginia, will be our guest speaker. We are very fortunate to have a man whose mind and heart are so committed to such an exceptional work. You'll not want to miss him.

On Saturday and Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Eric Metaxas will be here from New York. He's the author of many books including *Amazing Grace* which has been on the "New York Times" bestseller list. We'll have dinner on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and afterwards show the film, "Amazing Grace", in the sanctuary. Eric will answer at that time any questions the congregation may have. On Sunday Eric will speak at both morning services and also at 7:00 p.m. - following the 6:00 p.m. supper.

Above all, the most significant opportunity the church will offer will be on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> when our pledges for 2008 are dedicated and our baptismal vows renewed. Please be in prayer as to what that day of commitment can mean to you; pray as well what it can mean for our church as together we strive to know Christ and to make Him known.

In His love,  
Norman

## Thanks-doing

The French word for thanksgiving is Fête d'actions de grace or literally, "feast of thanks actions." When we give thanks, as well as celebrating all that we have received, what can we do to show our gratitude to God? Not just one day, but all year long? How can our thanksgiving become thanks-doing?

## Molly's Musings "The Death of Me"

It's a peculiar saying, don't you think? I've caught myself, however, using it a lot over the last few years: potty training will be the death of me, this back ache will be the death of me, this renovation will be the death of me. It's not that I really believe any of those things will actually overcome me, but there are days...oh brother, you know there are days! It's ironic to me that such a phrase is used so flippantly when really it speaks to "an essential" in the Christian walk.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Then again in Philippians 1:21, he states, "For to me, to live is Christ and to **die** is gain." Finally, in I Corinthians 15:31, "I **die** every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I have been mulling over these Scriptures the past few weeks and trying to come to grips with their true meaning. I want to make them my own. I want them to sink into the deepest recesses of my heart and take root. In order to allow these Scriptures to take up residence in my soul, I have to meditate on what they really mean. What does it look like to be crucified with Christ? What are the practical steps in dying every day? How in the world can I be like Paul and view death as gain?

I was riding in my car one of these fabulous fall mornings when the peace of Christ flooded me, and I finally, "got it." As I sat at the light at the intersection of McGregor and Wimbledon (why there, Lord, I'll only know in heaven), my heart was suddenly filled with the understanding I'd been seeking (seek and ye shall find) and here's what He impressed upon me:

"Molly, that heavy load you've been carrying, all those responsibilities, all those struggles with self and sin, all those mistakes you've been remembering, all those battles you've been fighting, give them to Me. Hang them on My cross. You've been crucified with Me, now put them to death. Go on, now, do it. Now live in the freedom I have for you. Live your life with a singular focus: Me! And when you're tempted to pick it all back up, put it to death again – every day, every moment, if need be. Your life is mine and nothing, NOTHING can harm you, defeat you, or destroy you. You are securely in my grasp. Now let it go, my child. Receive my life, new life, and live for ME!"

I have waited at that light and driven through that intersection more times than I can count, but suddenly I saw it with fresh eyes. For the first time in a long time, I felt completely at peace, relieved that no longer do I have to carry ANY of the junk I've been carrying. It doesn't matter what this life brings me be it illness, poverty, persecution, the loss of man's approval, even death. Because I belong to Him, because I have been crucified with Christ, I am healed, I am whole, I am forgiven, I am redeemed, I have purpose, and NOTHING can take that from me. As I bask in the freedom afforded me by His crucifixion, I am also learning to put to death my own will and sin so I can truly live for Him and according to His purposes.

My friends, I say to you with all the confidence in my being, "For me, Molly, to live IS Christ and to die IS gain." Hallelujah! A-men!

In Him,  
Molly

The Religious Arts Committee  
Presents

# The Heim Duo

In Concert  
Flute and Classical Guitar

“Dream Travels”



“A dazzling performance”

*Pan: Magazine of the British Flute Society*

“the sweetest guitar playing you’ll ever hear”

“gorgeous shimmering tone that reminds me of why I love the flute”

Online Customer Review Amazon.com

“The Heim duo perform very well indeed with skillful technical handling of the music . . .  
their thoughtful musicianship infuses this music with a grace and charm it merits.”

*Classical Guitar Magazine*

## 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 \$12.00. Deadline is Monday, December 3.

Announcing the Return of  
**Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass**  
*Collaborating with our Chancel Choir in Christmas Music*  
In our Morning Worship Services  
Sunday, Dec. 9

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Concert of Christmas Music for Handbells by BellFest  
Pensacola's auditioned community Bell Choir  
Sunday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.

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**Worship Schedule During Advent/Christmas**

Sunday, Dec. 2 (8:30, 11:00), Holy Communion  
(Handbell Choirs present Christmas Voluntaries)

Sunday, Dec. 9 (8:30, 11:00), Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass  
with our Chancel Choir

Sunday, Dec. 16 (8:30, 11:00), Children's Choirs and Youth Chorale  
present Christmas Music

Sunday, Dec. 23 (8:30, 11:00), Lessons and Carols  
(congregational carols; Chancel Choir)

Christmas Eve  
6:00 p.m. Carols and Candlelight (Children's and Youth Choirs)  
10:00 p.m. Carols, Candlelight and Communion (Chancel Choir)

Sunday, Dec. 30, One worship service at 11:00 a.m.

**Table grace**

Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today. Amen.

Martin Rinkart wrote this very popular hymn to be sung by his family as a table grace. Rinkart was a pastor in Germany during a time of both war and great sickness and buried literally thousands of people. Yet, through it all, he found reason to give thanks and praise to God. The hymn can be found in most hymnals. Try learning the tune and singing it as your grace.

## Presbyterian Women Activities

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

Circles will meet on Wednesday, November 14 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 at the home of Hilda Gewin (4702 Old Shell Road)

#2 at 9:15 a.m. at the home of Annica Kreider (3929 McGregor Ct.) – we will be stuffing goodie boxes for college students.

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

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



Congratulations to Ginny Thompson who received the Honorary Life Membership at the General Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Church on October 10. 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 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 the 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.

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service



Spring Hill Baptist will host the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. This includes the congregations of Forest Hill United Methodist, St. Ignatius Catholic, St. Paul's Episcopal, 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.

## Stewardship

God's Word directs us to this truth: "Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17)

I believe the deeper we grow in our faith, the clearer this truth becomes; for the deeper our faith is, the deeper also is our sense of gratitude and our need to convey it. That's why the giving of our tithe to the church is a joyous work. It's our heart-felt thanks to the One who is blessing and sustaining us: an outward expression of an inner faith. Thus we find that faith and works go hand-in-hand, just as James wrote in his letter so long ago.

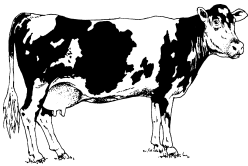
I hope that each person reading this letter will look inward and discern the depth of his or her gratitude, and having done so, will respond with a pledge to the 2008 budget.

You'll want to know that as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, we received \$752,590.00 toward our 2007 pledge of \$1,093,600.00.

Respectfully,

R. Gordon Mowry  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

## Global Missions Committee



The Global Missions Committee will hold the annual fund drive to support Heifer International following each service on December 2, 9 and 16<sup>th</sup>. Heifer International provides animals to poor and underserved people around the world. Animals provide work offspring, give milk, meat and other products and also monies to families who otherwise would have great difficulty supporting their families. Please make all checks payable to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, attention Heifer International and designate the animal(s) you wish to give. "There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread" Proverbs 22:9 (and in animals).

### First Thursday Lunch

Thursday, November 1, there will be a luncheon you won't want to miss. Molly Broders will lead us on a spiritual journey that will challenge us to want to know about Christian Education. Pat Stoll will again "whet" our appetites with a delicious meal. Time: 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$5.00. Place: FELLOWSHIP HALL

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

— Melody Beattie

## From the Library

Library trivia you may need to know...

In addition to books, audio and video materials, periodicals and subscriptions, the church library is also the depository for current and official minutes of the session and diaconate. Monthly financial sheets are also available for individuals wishing to follow the business of the congregation.



Some churches report the work of their officers summarized in their newsletters. Ours has chosen to file the minutes in the large loose-leaf notebooks kept on the south wall counter of the library. These are kept current and may be read as they are received.

Next month there will be new lists of year-end purchases. Please honor your borrowing privileges by returning materials before over dues are sent.

## Cookbooks available

Copies of "*Blessings*," the Spring Hill Presbyterian Cookbook are still available for \$18.00 in the church office, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. You may contact Jeff Stoll at 610-4289 to arrange for a special pickup after a Sunday service.

### *Corrections for the cookbook - Oops!*

Call it what you will, *Errata*, *Goof*, *Oversight*, but mistakes do happen. We apologize for the following errors in the cookbook and trust they will not diminish your enjoyment of it and its recipes.

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- MISSISSIPPI SIN** (Page 19): The 16-oz. carton should be Cream, **not** Sour Cream.
  - POPPY SEED DRESSING** (Page 63): Add 1 ½ cups of oil to the ingredients list.
  - PORK CHOP CASSEROLE** (Page 141): "... *layer the pork chops, onion, tomatoes, and green pepper.*"
  - "MAMAU'S" CHICKEN SPAGHETTI** (Page 161): Before preparing the sauce, the chicken should be floured, seasoned with salt and pepper, and fried in ½ c. oil. Set aside to drain. Due to the additional cooking time in the sauce, the chicken need not be fully cooked before adding to the sauce.
  - PEACH COBLER** (Page 225): Add ¾ cup of milk to the ingredients list.

## Welcome to our New Members

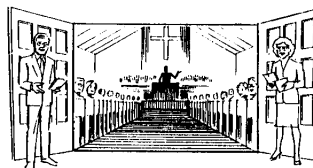
Corinne Atkinson  
5754 Huffman Drive North  
Mobile, AL 36693  
665-1317

Janet Brown  
217 Berwyn Drive W.  
Apt. 229  
Mobile, AL 36608  
342-6559

Gwen and Pat Douglas  
6475 Audubon Square W.  
Mobile, AL 36695  
660-8576

Kelly Fowler  
6816 Stonebrook Dr. N.  
Mobile AL 36695  
634-0068

Rita & Charles Hall  
6505 Lighthouse Court  
Mobile, AL 36695  
661-2336



**Welcome to Our  
Congregation**

### Village of Spring Hill – Blueprint 2007

The Village of Spring Hill invites you to participate in its upcoming community planning process. The organization has hired nationally renowned town planners Dover, Kohl & Partners to help develop a plan for our community, and they need your input. Dover, Kohl & Partners will be on site from November 6<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> and will be holding a series of meetings and workshops so that everyone has a chance to see and participate in the creation of the plan – *our* plan for the future. Please visit the Village of Spring Hill web site at [www.thevillageofspringhill.com](http://www.thevillageofspringhill.com) for key dates and additional information.

### News from Pinetreat

Camp Pinetreat will have a winter camp again this year!

The Presbytery of South Alabama's Camp Pinetreat will have a New Year's Camp for children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The date of the camp are December 29<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> and the cost is \$150.00. Activities include Bible study, archery, ropes course, basket weaving, drama, night hikes, worship, basketball, campfires and much more. Many of our awesome counselors from this past summer are returning for this event! Ring in the New Year with your friends at Camp Pinetreat. For a brochure or more information, contact Kathryn at 251-937-8401 or [camppinetreat@gmail.com](mailto:camppinetreat@gmail.com).



The Service Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered to work and those who donated blood at the recent blood drive. We had 28 donors and collected 21 usable pints.

## NOVEMBER OFFERINGS

Wednesday, November 7 “Dinner with a Perfect Stranger”

*A three-man dinner theater starting at 5:30 p.m. and featuring Bill Watts.*

Sunday, November 11 Commitment Sunday

*Dedication of pledges and renewal of baptismal vows.*

Wednesday, November 14 Thomas A. Tarrant III

*President of the C. S. Lewis Institute  
Springfield, Virginia*

Saturday & Sunday  
November 17 & 18

Eric Metaxas

*Author of numerous books including Amazing Grace – written in tandem with the film which will be shown on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Eric will speak afterwards; then at both services Sunday morning and at 7:00 p.m. Sunday.*

Tuesday, November 20 Thanksgiving Service

*Spring Hill Baptist Church – 7:00 p.m.*

Sunday, November 25 Christ the King Sunday

*End of the Christian year.  
The next Sunday, December 2  
is First Sunday in Advent.*



We rejoice with Gaillard and Patsy Hamilton in the birth of a granddaughter, Kathryn Margaret Hamilton on September 28 (Parents are Robert and Michele Hamilton).



We rejoice with Dan Detman and Cynthia Butz in their marriage on October 21 in the sanctuary.



death shall  
no longer  
have  
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Frances Curry in her death on September 29; with the family of Elizabeth Firster in her death on October 8; and with Virginia Price in the death of her mother, Lucille Spieth, on October 23, 2007.

## Memorials

*Memorials have been received for the following:*

Burns Moore  
Frances Curry  
Paul Henderson  
Laura Whinery  
Andreas Mortensen  
Sam B. Adams

*From the following:*

Elaine Daniels  
W. W. and Faye Cook  
Robert and Mary Ann  
Donnell  
J. Manson and Marietta  
Murray  
Sara Martin  
David and Beverly Yeager

Frank and Mary Russell  
Edith Cox  
Dick and Harriett Pennington  
Joe and Vilma Croom  
Robert and Pat Edington  
Mrs. Leif H. Konrad, Jr.  
Ben and Ann Rowe  
Billy and Sue McLean  
Tom and Alma Galloway  
Ethel Gholston  
Teal Corte and Brenda Keith  
Roberts Brothers, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Evans  
Matthew and Rachelle  
Tressler  
John and Gene Mobley  
Jean B. Arendall  
Marolyn and Buddy Greene  
James and Mary Hines  
Martha McCarty

Mr. and Mrs. Allen K. Steadham  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Alan Bunt  
Forrest and Ann Wilson  
Ann Bedsole  
Cornelia D. Hargett  
Hewitt and Catherine Smith  
Fred and Susan Helmsing  
Grace Brown  
Lewis and Barkley Shreve  
J. W. Meador  
Mike and Kim Barnett  
Bubba and Teddy Willard  
Kent and Noel Curry  
Buck and Joelyne Trehern  
Brenda and Jim McGuire  
Ann and Ben Magee  
Ferd and Sue Zundel

A child was asked to describe a saint. Looking around at all of the beautiful stained glass windows in the church sanctuary, each with the portrait of a great man or woman with the letters "St." in front of their names, the child replied, "A saint is someone the light shines through."

# Lectionary for the Lord's Day

November 2007

- 4 *31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Hab.1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144  
2 Thess.1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
- 11 *32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145: 1-5, 17-21  
or Ps. 98; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20:27-38
- 18 *33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12:2  
2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- 25 *Christ the King/Reign of Christ*  
Jer. 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;  
Col.1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

  
God's Promises are  
Forever

## November 2007

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 2007

- 1 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Lunch
- 4 Heim Duo, Flute and Classical Guitar
- 6 Committees
- 7 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 11 Recommitment Sunday
- 13 Men's Breakfast  
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.  
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Circles
- 17-18 Festival of Faith II – Eric Metaxas
- 19 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Spring Hill Baptist – 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Thanksgiving – Church Office closed
- 23 Church Office closed



Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a cornucopia of catnip  
for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.



**Spring Hill Presbyterian Church**  
**10 Westminster Way**  
**Mobile, AL 36608**  
**Web site: [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us)**

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**November Newsletter**