

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 62

October 2006

No. 10

From the Pastor...

The month of October holds special opportunities for Spring Hill:

October 1st is World Communion Sunday and also for us the Ordination/Installation of officers at the 11 o'clock service.

October 7th and 8th is our Festival of Faith. On Saturday, after dinner in the Bullard Building, we'll have the privilege to see "onetimeblind", a nationally acclaimed drama group. On Sunday, Dr. Laura Mendenhall, president of Columbia Theological Seminary, will speak at both morning services and again in the evening following our dinner.

On October 22nd, we'll have the privilege to hear at both morning services the Honorable Drayton Nabers, Jr., Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and author of the book, *The Case for Character*.

October 29th is Reformation Sunday which we'll celebrate with the Kirkin O' the Tartans at both services.

Throughout October, we'll continue to gather on Wednesday evenings for dinner and classes for all ages. I will lead our study on the conflicts in the Middle East, focusing on the militant Muslims' interpretation of the Koran, the rise of terrorist groups, the split between Sunnis and Shiites, and the presence of Christian churches that trace their origin to the Apostolic Age.

Meanwhile, I want to remind you to invite others to share in the opportunities we have to worship and to learn. Every member of Spring Hill is a minister called by Christ to share His love and the message of His Gospel. However, we need each other "to equip the saints." That's why classes and programs are offered – so that we can be equipped to be the voice of Truth and the arms of Christ. And that is why I encourage you to take advantage of your church's offerings and to invite others to do so as well.

In His love,
Norman



The sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be celebrated in worship on October 1,
World Communion Sunday.

Notes from Music Ministries

Randy Sheets

One of the wonderful parts of leading or singing choral music is the encounter with great words--- words old and words new. I find that music helps words live inside me, to take hold, help me reflect on their meaning, and hopefully to affect the way I live. One of the Chancel Choir's anthems on October 1 is a John Rutter setting of such a text, whose words were penned anonymously in the 15th century.

Thy Perfect Love

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest,
Thy perfect love close in my breast
That I thee love and never rest;
And make me love thee of all things best.
And wound my heart in thy love free
That I may reign in joy evermore with Thee.

Children's church ministry. Our music ministry **needs volunteers to lead the gathering music during children's church.** No experience is necessary and all music will be provided for you. It will only take a few minutes of your time to learn the music and you may pick the Sundays that are convenient for you. Smiles, energy, and a love for children is all that is needed. Our goal is to teach our children to use their talents to glorify God. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Susan Hoitt at skhoitt@mindspring.com or call the church. Please prayerfully consider leading our children in this important ministry.

Schedule for Choir Worship Participation in October

Carol Choir (grades 1-2): 10/22, 8:30
Junior Choir (grades 3-5): 10/22, 8:30
Youth Chorale (grades 6-12): 10/1, 8:30; 10/29, 8:30
Bronze Ringers: 10/22, 8:30
Spring Hill Ringers: 10/22, 11:00
Chancel Choir: each Sunday at 11:00



Kirkin' o the Tartans

The Kirkin o' the Tartans will be held at both services on October 29 with a church-wide lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service. Cost is adult - \$5.00; child - \$3.00; Family max - \$20. Watch the bulletin for further details.

First Thursday Lunch

1st Thursday Lunch will be October 4 at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please call the church office to make reservations or use the tear-off in the bulletin.



***Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time ends October 29.
Turn back your clock one hour.***

FESTIVAL of FAITH WEEKEND: SEEING GOD, SPEAKING GOD

Prepare yourself to be **INSPIRED**. That's the only warning you're going to get before you come to Festival of Faith Weekend on October 7th and 8th at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday October 7th you will have two opportunities to be inspired to **SEE GOD** in new ways through the ministry of nationally acclaimed drama team "onetimeblind".

onetimeblind

"With genuine personalities, real ministry-driven hearts, and a passion for God and His people, it's been said that onetimeblind can say more in fifteen minutes than a speaker can in half a year. They present truth in a style that imitates the parables of Jesus. They push you to think. They awaken your senses and open your eyes to the reality of God's love in a whole new dimension. And they do it with skits, music, percussion . . . any method of communication God gives them to make His love known, personally known, by everyone they meet."

Their performance at 7:00 on Saturday night promises to captivate, entertain, inspire and uplift you as they bring the story of God's love and empowerment to our sanctuary, just as they have for more than a quarter of a million others since 1994. Come prepared to laugh, to cry, and to be challenged with the call to change our lives. And if you really want to prepare, come to the drama /worship workshop in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 Saturday afternoon. Everyone is invited.

On Sunday October 8th prepare to be inspired yet again as we welcome **COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY** Columbia Theological Seminary President Dr. Laura Mendenhall to the pulpit on Sunday morning and Sunday evening. Under her energizing leadership, Columbia Seminary has emerged as one of the most dynamic and purposeful seminaries in the PCUSA, with a primary mission of educating and supporting Ministers of the Word and Sacrament both for southern Presbyterian congregations and also for the church at large. She brings us her unique perspective and passion on **SPEAKING GOD** – as a pastor, as leader of an institution dedicated to training preachers and as the current Chair of the Committee on Theological Education for the PCUSA. As members of the priesthood of all believers, we are called to constantly explore new ways of **SPEAKING GOD** and Dr. Mendenhall promises to fearlessly lead us on that awesome expedition on Sunday.

Festival of Faith is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to come and join us in fellowship. Please bring them all. And don't forget your appetite for dinner at 6:00 on both nights!!

STORY OF ELIJAH

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rickey was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Words from the Worship Committee

Sharing our faith and supporting each other in our faith is a big part of what we do as a congregation at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Because our faith journeys are different, our perspectives and insights can often be just the answer for which the person sitting next to you in the pew is searching. Often we never know that what we have said has made a difference in someone's life, but that person knows and remembers and so does God!

The Worship Committee is planning to create a devotional guide for the Advent Season. We encourage everyone to submit a piece of writing, no matter the length, for this devotional booklet. You can use the lectionary as a guide for writing or you can write about a particular verse dealing with the coming of Christ that resonates with you or has particular relevance. The more who participate, the better!

Won't you please consider writing something for this publication? This is a wonderful way to witness your faith and build up the community of Christ. The lectionary verses will be published in the next newsletter, but if you already have a particular piece of scripture that has great meaning for you, please plan to use that as a guide. Please contact Molly Wagner at mwagner@stpaulsmobile.net or 343-4960 if you would be willing to share your gift of faith with others in the congregation by writing a piece for the Advent devotional guide.



Festival for Faith for Children:

Hey kids, we have fun activities planned for you during Festival of Faith. On Saturday, October 7th we'll play indoor and outdoor games. And for Sunday night we have a real treat! **The Cloth Disciples** from Christ United Methodist Church are coming back this year! So mark your calendars, and we'll see you there!

Blood Drive – Give the Gift of Life

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for October 15, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The Red Cross now requires some type of valid identification be shown before you can give blood. Your driver's license or donor card should be brought with you.

Please call the church (342-1550) to sign up to give the gift of life.

Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.



All circles will gather on Wednesday, October 11 when the Honorary Life member will be honored at a luncheon and the Thank Offering will be received. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations may be made through circle chairpersons or the church office by Monday, October 9.

Welcome to our new members:

Alan and Marilyn Michel
9051 Timbercreek Blvd.
Daphne, AL 36527
625-1400

Stewardship

The Bible speaks to the fact that when we invest what God has given us, He will provide us with even more to give to His kingdom.

God's Word tells us: "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work... For He Who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God... for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." II Corinthians 9:6-12 (New RSV).

It is a fact of life that we reap what we sow. God's word has said it perfectly. The promise and the blessing are here. Please reflect deeply on your blessings and bless others through your giving.



Respectfully,
R. Gordon Mowry

Library News

Thanks to special donations and a generous book budget the following have been added to the Library's collection:

Gagnon: *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*

Johnson & Leith, eds: *Reformed Readers*; a source book in Christian Theology, vol. II, 1519-1799.

Higgs: *Bad Girls of the Bible; What we can learn from them*

Bostrom: *Song of Creation*

DVD - Ten Commandments in two parts (History Channel)

Barth: *Dogmatics in Outline*

Peterson: *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*



A minister wrote to a wealthy, influential business executive requesting a contribution to a worthy charity. A curt refusal ended with, "As far as I can see, this Christian business is just one continuous give, give, give."

The minister thought it over and then replied: "I wish to thank you for the best definition of the Christian life that I have ever yet heard."

It is said that when Mahatma Gandhi boarded a train one day, a sandal slipped off his foot and landed beneath the train. The distinguished Indian leader did not have time to retrieve it. Quickly Gandhi removed the other sandal and threw it back down the track in the direction of the other sandal. When asked for an explanation, the teacher replied, "The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use."

Stories from life for Preaching and Teaching.

© Abingdon Press

Supper Clubs

Sign up for Next Year

Supper Clubs are a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation. They are groups of no more than 10 people who meet on a regular basis to enjoy fellowship and a meal. Each year persons who want to be in a Supper Club are assigned to a different group so that they can become better acquainted with other Church members. Don't delay... Join today!!! You will be glad that you did. If you have questions, please call Nancy Adams (342-6130) or Margaret Mowry (634-0093).

**Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or
return it to the church office by Friday, October 6.**

Supper Club Sign Up Sheet **(Due by 10/6)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate #: _____

Check one of the following:

1. ___ I am not currently in a Supper Club. Please put me in one.
2. ___ I am currently in a Supper Club. I want to continue to be in a Supper Club.
3. ___ I am currently in a Supper Club, but am no longer able to participate.
4. ___ Please delete my name.

20s, 30s, 40s:

This year we've had a blast bowling, playing tennis, and singing karaoke. What's next??? How about a **COSTUME PARTY** (costumes not mandatory, but there will be a contest)? Saturday, October 21, 6:30 at the home of Meagher and Wagon Whigham (72 Byrnes Blvd. 344-4202). Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choice. Childcare will be provided at the church from 6:15-10:00. You must call to reserve your child's spot by Wednesday, October 18 (342-1550).

Assisted listening devices available

Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship services and are located in a basket by the front door in the Narthex. They should be returned there at the end of the service. For help, ask an usher.

Saints being trained!

Overwhelmed because you have a Sunday School lesson assigned to you? Out of the loop when it comes to Tenets of the Faith?

The answer may be closer at hand than you ever thought.

The Presbytery of South Alabama has heard it all and can come to your rescue. The Presbytery's Visioning Committee has answered with a program to assist in training teachers for adult classes in its churches.

The Academy for the Equipping of the Saints is well into its first group of training experiences and has decided the response was more than expected so is planning to begin another group starting in Fall '07.

Thirteen churches and thirty-two individuals signed up for the retreat workshops and have strongly endorsed having another group begin.

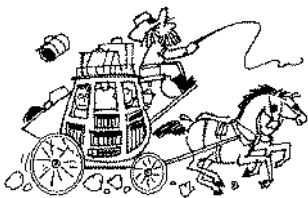
The format consists of two retreats six months apart for Old Testament and New Testament review led by Presbyterian college faculty member, George Ramsay.

The first retreat was September last year and the second is in February of this year. The September retreat focused on Reform Theology intertwined with church history. Before the January retreat in 2007, each class member will have selected a teaching project, received assistance in development from a mentor in the home church and from a faculty advisor at the retreat.

Cynthia Rigby of Austin Theological Seminary will lead the September retreat and Kathy Dawson from Columbia Theological faculty will lead the trainees through teaching methods and course development.

For a denomination that values education in its pastors, this is a boost to the laity in the way of formalized training. Personally, I have found this experience to be valuable in Biblical training, theological insights and the new formed contact with laity from other churches in our presbytery. There is commitment of time, and focus but 32 of us have returned for the third retreat when the planners were sure there would be attrition of membership.

After all, the committee had planned initially for 24- and 32 came. So they let us all come figuring they'd lose some along the way. Think about joining us for a new experience in learning and living the word for yourselves and others. More information? Contact me at RMadx1928@msn.com or 251/342-9805.



Spring Hill Travelers

Believing that it can be more fun to travel with folks you'd like to know better, the Spring Hill Travelers was organized and has 2 remaining trips planned for 2006.

The next trip, October 10, 11 and 12, includes lunch at a fantastic house in Geraldine, formerly a granary, a day at Unclaimed Baggage in Scottsboro, and a visit and lunch at Gorham's Bluff considered by the editors of Southern Living as the most romantic spot in Alabama. Fall foliage will likely be an added feature. The cost of this trip is \$250 and is limited to 30 people (there are 20 spaces left). Reservations must be accompanied by the full amount for trips of less than \$100.00; ½ if more than \$100.00. A sheet with more details is on the table in the back hall of the church, or you can call Liz Hill, 342-9756, preferably between 3 and 6 in the afternoons. Checks can be mailed to her at 217 Berwyn Drive W., Mobile, AL 36608.

On December 8th, there will be a trip to Fairhope where boutiques will be decorated, street artists will be on the sidewalks, and lunch will be served at the refurbished Grand Hotel. Cost is to be determined.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Betty Huckabee in her death on August 26 in Franklin, LA.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Betty Huckabee
Jim Andress
Susanne Weaver
Floyd Waldrop
Elaine Phelps
Charlie Hightower

From the following:

Sybil Smith
Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Terry
George & Mary Beth Thomson
Betty & Robert Foster
Governor & Mrs. Murphy J. Foster, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hanks
Bruce & Barbara Maynard
David & Mary Ellen Haynes
Kathleen Norfleet
Wes & Elisa Baldwin
John Gilbert
Craig & Janine Thomson



Substantive Giving

The story about the widow's gifts at the temple treasury is certainly about giving, but it is a message about much more as well. Here is the story of adventure with God. Giving as a disciple of Jesus is about that same adventure.

The journey of the Christian life is not an easy one. It is not necessarily smooth or prosperous or financially successful. But that journey is always an adventure. Part of the adventure is giving.

The amount of your gift is not as important as the cost to you. Jesus is talking about risks in giving and in living. Jesus is calling for an almost recklessly adventurous spirit.

Some gave to the temple treasury out of abundance. One woman gave out of her substance. Jesus watched her for a moment and then said to his disciples, in effect, Take note of what is happening here. It's important. "All of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her *substance*." (Luke 21:4)

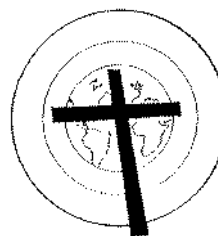
Does your giving have the sound of "substance"?

"On a Wing and a Prayer," by Brian K. Banknight
© *Dimensions for Living*. Used by permission.

May God Shield

May God shield you on every step,
May Christ keep you in every path.
May Spirit bathe you in every pass.

-- *The Carmina Gadelica*,
Trans. Alexander Carmichael



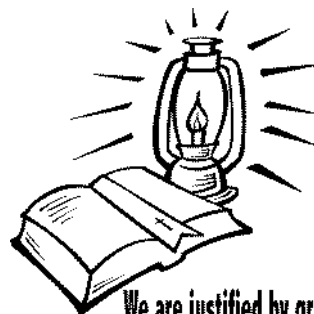
*We have peace
with God
through Christ.*

Romans 5:1

Lectioary for the Lord's Day

October 2006

- 1 *26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Ps. 124
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50
- 8 *27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Ps. 26
Heb. 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
- 15 *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps. 22:1-15
Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
- 22 *29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Ps. 104: 1-9, 24, 35c
Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
- 29 *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22)
Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



We are justified by grace through faith.

October 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Church Calendar

October 2006

- 1 Lord's Supper
2 Committees
4 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
5 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
7-8 Festival of Faith
9 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
10 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Presbytery Meeting at Orange Beach Presbyterian
11 Presbyterian Women General Meeting and Luncheon – 10:30 a.m.
15 Blood Drive – 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
23 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
Session – 7:00 p.m.
29 Kirkin o' the Tartans (both services) – Church Lunch - Noon

SEEK
JOY
IN
FAITHFULNESS

The text for a Bible study session was a verse in II Chronicles 36:9 "Johoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and 10 days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord." The theme: "So you think you've got troublesome kids..."

“Prayer should be the key of the morning... the lock of the evening.”
Owen Fellthan 1620

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a mouse in a Jack-O-Lantern for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

