

Spring Hill Messenger

Vol. 63

October 2007

No. 10

From the Senior Pastor...

Autumn is here. You can already feel the difference in the air; which means we're in the season to plan for the new year. The opportunity at hand is to discern how we can express our gratitude to God through our pledges for 2008.

What God asks is ten percent. (anything above that is our gift.) What we return is ultimately between God and us. The Scriptures are clear: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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... You will be enriched in every way for your generosity... for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also overflows with thanksgivings to God." (II Cor. 9:7-8, 11-12)

Tithing is one of the most sacred and joyous acts a Christian can experience. By it we show our gratitude; through it the Kingdom of God on earth is increased, the Good News is taken to new places, the physical and spiritual needs of people are met, the Word is taught, the young are instructed, the old are made wiser, and the worship of the entire church is enhanced. But it is the giver who receives the deepest blessing of all. I know of what I write. For quite a number of years I did not tithe, believing I needed the ten percent more than God. I was dead wrong. I didn't need the ten percent nearly as much as I needed to give it to the church. The Kingdom of God needed it, and God knew I needed the blessing of giving it. In my late 30's I woke up to that fact. And I am so thankful.

There's no question that Spring Hill is responding to the lending of God's spirit, but we still have a way to go. We have new ministries to fund, new missions to support, and existing programs and charities to expand. God has blessed us incredibly with opportunities to support and increase His Kingdom. So let's be faithful. Let us show our God and Savior our gratitude with our pledges by returning the tithe, knowing that whatever we give beyond the tithe is our gift to God.

Yours in Him,
Norman

Molly's Musings

"It HAS to be Different Here"

Molly's Aside: I wrote this article for last month's newsletter, but at the last minute, I lost my courage. In the last 6 days, I have had two encounters with members of our congregation in which they expressed feeling like "outsiders in the church." After these conversations, I felt convicted by the Holy Spirit to publish the article below. Forgive me if these words cause any offense, but I am learning to seek to please God over man.

Galatians 1:10 "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

It's a tragic story that I unfortunately feel like I've heard a 100 times. A young man doesn't quite fit in for whatever reason. He's bullied at school. He's an outcast at church. He desperately desires to belong and feel accepted so much so that when the wrong crowd is looking for new cronies, he gladly accepts the invitation. He gets involved in drugs and from there you can pick from a number of heartbreaking ends to the story. In this particular case the teen was killed in a car accident while under the influence of several substances. I turn off CNN. I can't take it anymore. I can't hear about one more kid lost. I just can't.

As a staff person of the church, I interact with many different people across a wide spectrum of ages and programs. Over the last few months, I've heard several people say about the church, "I just feel invisible here." It breaks my heart to hear these words spoken, but I can't say that I don't empathize. There are times I have said the same thing.

Both situations, in my mind, point to the same glaring reality: we, "the church of Jesus Christ," are missing the mark. Immediately, two Scriptures come to mind. From Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Then from his letter to the Galatians, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

In these verses, Paul succinctly gives us a clear picture of what it means to be "the church." In essence, he says, IF you are a Christian, THEN do this. When I think about social norms and the culture of relationships in the church, I don't see how there is much difference. People that don't quite fit the mold, remain on the perimeter. Difficult people are talked about and pushed to the side. The cute and the well dressed are often chosen first for whatever roles need to be fulfilled. The wealthy have influence. Most people exchange the usual pleasantries with their acquaintances, but few people have more than a couple of deep relationships. Isn't this true of our society? But doesn't it also, at times, apply to the church? If troubled teens are outcast and members of our congregation feel invisible, how can we say no?

Now don't get me wrong, there are **many** examples of these Scriptures being lived out in "the church." I have seen exceptional illustrations of people carrying one another's burdens and being like minded and considering others interests; but what I am trying to communicate is that we cannot rest until everyone feels welcomed, until everyone feels accepted, until

(Continued on page 3)

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everyone feels like their relationships are deep enough to have their burdens carried. We **MUST** strive to build a real community. This has to be a place where difficult people are dealt with in love and where the off-beat are valued for what they bring to the table. It **HAS** to be different here.

If you are reading this and thinking, "I've never felt that way about the church" then I have a challenge for you. Take these words of Paul to heart and make every effort to live them out in your relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ. If there are people in your midst that you think might feel on the outside, pull them in with the love of Christ. Seek the Holy Spirit's leading about where you need to minister.

If you are reading this and thinking, "She's talking about me", then I have a challenge for you, too. Don't give up on the church of Jesus Christ and turn elsewhere to fulfill your need to belong. With God's help, there is hope for true Christian community. Let us pray for it. Let us strive for it. Let us persevere in our quest to live obediently to His vision for our relationships on earth.

In Christ,
Molly Broders

Corporate Prayer

Since March, the Prayer Ministry Team has prayed for each member of this congregation by name four times. We also pray for the sick, the hurting, shut ins, our pastors and staff, our teachers, youth and children's workers, the ministries of the church, the officers, the committees, soldiers, our world, missionaries, and special requests of the congregation. Jesus said "My house will be called a house of prayer." Paul said "Keep praying for all the saints, "pray continually, and "be faithful in prayer." Please come and join us in the Bride's Room each Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm and before the 11 am worship service each Sunday morning.

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, October 3 at 9:30 in the Conference Room.

All circles will gather on Wednesday, October 10 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. Reservations may be made through circle chairpersons or the church office by Monday, October 8.



**Correction to last month's Newsletter:
Circle 4's project is the Ronald McDonald Home.**

The Religious Arts Committee

Presents

The Heim Duo

In Concert

Flute and Classical Guitar

Sunday, November 4, 3:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Donations accepted

The Heim Duo's unique and versatile combination of flute and guitar projects an exquisite, intimate sound, and an image of cooperative synergy. The Duo is in its fourteenth season as a professional chamber music ensemble.

Their CD "The Memory of a Dance Centaur 2559" recorded by Grammy-nominated engineer Peter Nothnagel, features premier recordings by the British composer-guitarist John Duarte.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Our Choirs & Bell Choirs are Open for Membership

See the Weekly Calendar in each week's worship bulletin for rehearsal schedules.

For more information, contact Randy Sheets or Susan Hoitt

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

Are you looking for a way to serve God?

Do you think you are too old for God to use in this church? Have you considered what you can accomplish by praying for the needs of Spring Hill? In James 5:16, he said "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." This also includes women. Moses was still leading the people at 120. Anyone over 120 is off the hook, but if you are less, then God can use you. Come join us Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7 pm in the Bride's Room. If there is enough interest, we can establish an additional prayer time during the day that is convenient for a group of 4 or more. Call Philip Jung at 344-4908 if you are interested.

Library News

A Learning Community Uses its Library

So you are going to teach a Bible study. Where do you go for help? The Library, of course!

In the next weeks the display table in the library will feature various New Testament Commentaries to introduce these references to you. Any and all may be borrowed for a brief time and returned on their date due. These resources have been purchased and processed for your benefit and edification.

Forget having to figure everything out for yourself. Delve into a lesson or citation and come up with much to help your growth in the WORD. Let theologians and seminary professors share their knowledge and expertise with you.

Come and learn!!

Blood Drive Give the Gift of Life

Our next Red Cross Blood drive is scheduled for October 14 from 8:30 – 1:00 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.

First Thursday Lunch

1st Thursday Luncheon will be October 4th at 11:30 a.m. in the Bullard Building dining room. We look forward to having Pastor Mark Mueller as our speaker. Come and be inspired; enjoy the fellowship, and have one of Pat Stoll's **good** luncheons. Cost is \$5.00. Please call the church office to make reservations or use the tear-off in the bulletin.

**The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in
worship on Sunday, October 7,
World Communion Sunday.**



**Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time ends
November 4. Turn back your clock one hour.**

Kirkin o' the Tartans

The Kirkin o' the Tartans will be held at both services on October 30 with a church-wide lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service. Cost is adult - \$6.00; child - \$3.00; Family max - \$20. Watch the bulletin for further details.

"Communion" is the goal of all movement, personal and planetary alike. Communion is the power within the evolutionary story that forever draws things into mutual interdependence.

– Diarmuid O'Murchu, *Evolutionary Faith*

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

– Martin Luther

Welcome to our New Members:

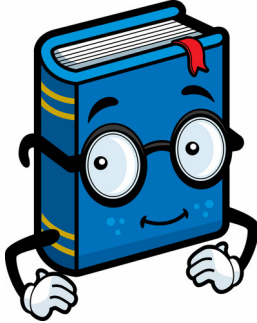
Janet Kuhn Bell
6103 Venetian Way N.
Mobile, AL 36608
345-7402

Wayne and Catherine Pierce
2502 Woodland Road
Mobile, AL 36693
661-5408

Neil and Alison White
550 Cumberland Road E.
Mobile, AL 36608
341-3562

Laura Kuhn
6107 Venetian Way N.
Mobile, AL 36608
344-2969

Jackie McClain
4009 Old Shell Road, Apt.E-6
Mobile, AL 36608
343-0668



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Educational Outreach Committee

School has already started and the SHPC Educational Outreach Committee needs your help! Our plan is to place volunteers in schools and programs in October. Please don't delay in submitting your volunteer form!

Any Questions? Contact any of the committee members: Christopher Jones (Chair), Jim Adams, Lexie Barnett, Joan Christmas, Kathy Hamilton, Judy Stout, Gayla Wiik, or Michael Wing.

Prayerfully consider how you might serve students through the outreach opportunities being coordinated by SHPC:

- Serve on Educational Outreach Committee. Initiate, promote and coordinate church-wide efforts to support education in Mobile (particularly public education). Share enthusiasm about educating children and spreading Christian values.
- Volunteer to read, tutor, or otherwise assist on a regular basis at Mary B. Austin Elementary School, our "Partner in Education" as assigned by MCPSS
- Read to children at other schools in Mobile County
- Work with children who are learning English as a second language
- Meet various needs of pre-K children in the Just 4 Program
- Participate in short-term or one day projects such as field days, grounds/building beautification projects, crafts, career days, etc.
- Tutor and/or serve as mentor for an "at risk" student

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____ **Cell** _____

Place completed form in offering plate or drop in envelope in the hallway.

Only when redemption in Christ is understood as historical, as an affirmation of God's original intention for creation, rather than a rejection of creation, will it become possible to see the great New Testament theme of equality in Christ as a mandate, not merely of flight from the world, but of transformation of the world in the direction of justice.

– Rosemary Radford Ruether

Golf for Children in Prichard

Bobby McNeely's Report

A six-week golf program for Prichard children begun last year by Billy McLean was held again this summer, meeting two mornings each week. It was led by Teddy Alvis (Coach Leggs) who is a double amputee. Other "coaches" included two teenagers and nine adults some of whom were part-time. Representing SHPC were Roy Kennedy, Ashford Kettler and Bobby McNeely.

Each day started with prayer and a blessing was asked at lunch – sometimes by an attendee. Words of wisdom were discussed daily and included Respect, Honesty, Patience, Cooperation, etc. and each child received a tee shirt that read "I am a GOLF Champ." Prichard Mayor, Ron Davis, attended each Wednesday. We plan to continue the program next year and volunteers with even a little golf experience are welcome.

**Love all Creation,
the whole of it and every grain of sand
Love every leaf
Every ray of God's light
Love the animals
Love the plants
Love everything
If you love everything
You will perceive
The divine mystery in things
And once you have perceived it
You will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly
More and more every day
And you will at last come to love the whole
world
With an abiding universal love.**

– Fyodor Dostoyevsky



We rejoice with David and Amber Lane in the birth of a son, Baylor Havard Val Lane, on September 10; with Mary Hazen Braswell, Louis and Moren Braswell in the birth of a grandson, Matthew Stewart Rand, on September 10 in Birmingham (Parents are David and Helen Rand); and with Ted and Mona Ferguson in the birth of a granddaughter, Olivia Dees Ferguson, on September 15 (Parents are John and Liz Ferguson).



The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Dr. Andreas V. Mortensen in his death on August 28; with Judy Stout and Babs Wright in the death of their sister, Jan Summers, on September 8; and with Lin Whinery in the death of her daughter, Laura Whinery, on September 13 in CA.

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Paul D. Henderson
Burns Moore
Andreas V. Mortensen
Marjorie Saul
Norman Berke
Walter M. Trehern

From the following:

Larry and Claudia Brock
Buck and Joelyne Trehern
Appie and Tom O'Melia
Liz Hill
Duncan and Frances McDonald
Billy and Sue McLean

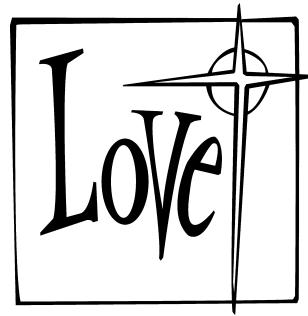
Bob and Jimmie Hatcher
John and Thelma Bowen
Dudley, Ruland & Chateau, P.C.
Dick Bradley
Frank and Cathi Dagley
Floyd and Betty Jordan
Ken Reid
Stony and Virginia Price
Kaye Mims
Charles and Linda Langston
Gloria Hicks
Joe and Vilma Croom
The Riley Trehern Family
Hewitt and Catherine Smith
Dr. G. C. and Louise Oswalt
Royce and Pat Ray
Helen Wells

In one communion liturgy of the early church, in addition to eating bread, people drank from three cups: water, to symbolize inner cleansing and baptismal renewal; wine, symbolizing the body of Christ; and milk mixed with honey, remembering God's promises.

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

October 2007

- 7 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lam. 1:1-6; Lam. 3:19-26 or Ps. 137
2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
- 14 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Ps. 66:1-12;
2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
- 21 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:97-104;
2 Tim. 3:14-4:5
- 28 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65;
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14



October 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	31			

Church Calendar

October 2007

- 2 Committees
- 3 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 4 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Lord's Supper
- 9 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Presbyterian Women General Meeting and Luncheon – 10:30 a.m.
- 12 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Blood Drive – 8:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- 16 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 26-27 Presbyterian meeting at Westminster Presbyterian
- 28 Kirkin o' the Tartans (both services) – Church Lunch - Noon

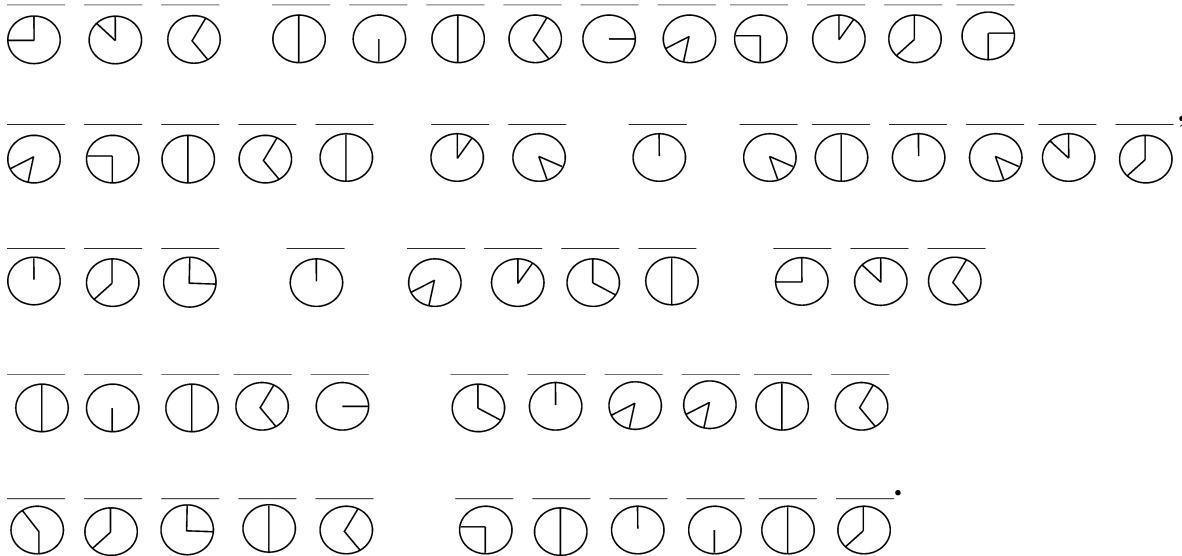
Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers. Meow! There will be Catnip Tea and Salmon Scones for Ti Amo and Al E. Cat. Scrumptious!



Secret Code

Use the code to discover what it says in Eccl 3:1.

A =	D =	E =	F =	G =	H =	I =	M =
N =	O =	R =	S =	T =	U =	V =	Y =

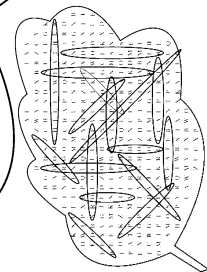
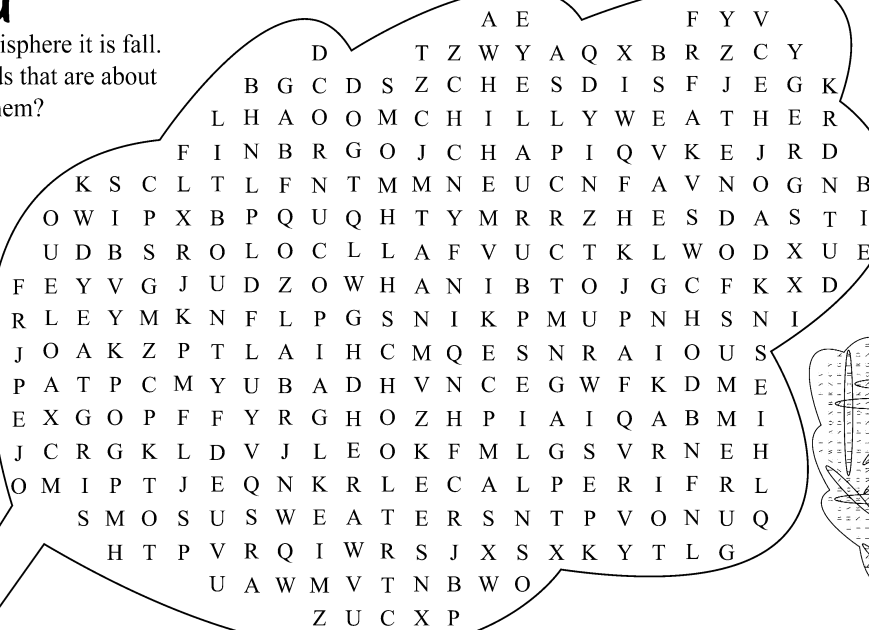


Answer: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Word Find

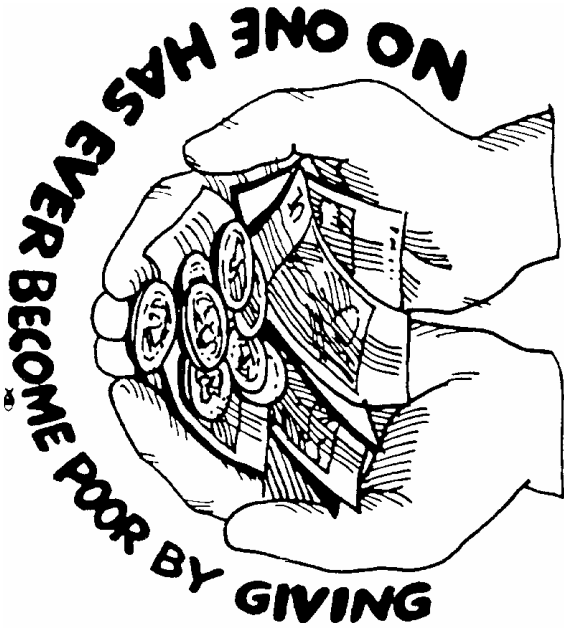
In the northern hemisphere it is fall. Here are some words that are about fall. Can you find them?

- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- BOUNTY
- CHILLY WEATHER
- CIDER
- CORNUCOPIA
- END OF SUMMER
- FALL COLORS
- FIREPLACE
- FROST
- HARVEST
- PUMPKINS
- RAKING LEAVES
- SCHOOL
- SMOKE
- SWEATERS
- THANKSGIVING



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