

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor...

**The psalmist wrote: “Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”
(Ps. 37:4)**

The promise has many layers. If we delight in the Lord (that is, if we understand as the Shorter Catechism confesses, that our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever), then we will want what He wants; we will seek what He seeks; we will show mercy as He shows mercy; we will love as we are loved by Him.

God did *not* create us for us to ignore Him or to fear Him in the sense of being scared of Him. God created us to have union with us, for us to know Him and to fear Him *in the sense* of being in awe of the grace He gives. He created us out of love for the purpose of loving Him, trusting Him, and delighting in Him

That is why the psalmist could confidently write: “Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” If we delight in Him we will want His purposes to prevail, His plans to be fulfilled. Therefore, we will pray with a trusting heart for the very things God wants for us.

If we do *not* delight in the Lord, we will not know how to pray or for what to pray, nor will we pray with confidence. But if our delight is in Him, we will be guided by His Spirit, we will be united to Jesus, and we will pray in the knowledge that Jesus prays with us and for us to the Father; and the Father will give us the desires of our heart for our desires will be His desires.

My prayer for Spring Hill Presbyterian is Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians: “I pray that He may strengthen you in your inner being with the power of His Spirit, and that Christ may swell in your hearts through faith as you’re being rooted and grounded in love, and that you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the fullness of God.” *So be it.*

Norman



**The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated in
worship on Sunday, October 5,
World Communion Sunday.**

Molly's Musings
Know for Certain: The Promise of a Rainbow

If there was ever a woman desperate to hear from God on Wednesday, September 10th, it was Molly Broders. Why September 10th and why the desperation? Let's see, rewind the story a few months.

In the early spring of 2008, Mark Coats and I began to have conversations about how to boost attendance in Sunday morning CE with our youth. Our numbers during this hour have been dwindling for years. I'm really not a numbers girl, but at times, they can be a useful tool for evaluating, at the very least, how many you're reaching. Something inside of me just felt strongly that we needed a new direction. Mark and I began to seek God's plan for this new direction, and slowly, over a period of months, it began to unfold and come into focus.

By April, God had assembled a group of amazing adults that were willing to commit their time and energy to developing a new ministry. I could not have been more awestruck by their enthusiasm and desire to be an integral part of writing and defining this Thematic Approach to Youth Ministry which would ultimately be called T.L.C. (Transforming Lives for Christ). This new program would incorporate all of our youth ministry opportunities from Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, to Sunday night PYC. It was an exciting summer, but I confess, I had my doubts.

On August 18th, we (the Steering Committee) planned to invite any adult that had been involved in youth ministry in any capacity over the last two years to a dinner to hear about T.L.C. It was our hope that at that meeting, a larger group would become informed, get excited, and want to get involved. It was that evening, that the doubts I had indulged earlier in the summer really took root. What if we hadn't prayed enough about this direction? What if we birthed this baby and she failed to thrive? What if...what if...what if...oh, the phrase that plagues my faith more than any other. How could I help launch a program if I did not have the faith to trust God to take care of the "unknowns?" Compelled by doubt, we prayed. We got on our knees in those rooms upstairs in the Bullard Building and we prayed.

Now fast forward to September 10th. It is the first official night of the very first theme for the new program – do or die day, in my book. The theme for the week is entitled, "Promises, Promises, Promises." Mark, the interns, and I have hammered out the details about how to communicate that the promises of God are rock solid and the youth can know for certain that they can trust Him to do everything He says He will do. After Wednesday night dinner, Mark takes the students to get the program started. As is typical, I am running a little behind because of my motherly duties. Hannah and I are strolling over to the Bullard Building when something catches my eye. How do I describe what we saw? Over the Bullard Building, a rainbow streaks the sky. A wave of emotions floods my soul. I cannot believe it. Here we were, launching a new program, about to teach our very first theme on the promises of God and there, in the sky, the sign of God's first promise to His creation...and of all places, it hung directly over the Bullard Building! For me, this is confirmation, this is manna from heaven, this is a direct word from my Creator. Despite my doubts, fears, and lack of faith, He speaks.

It may be a bit self absorbed to think that rainbow was painted by God just for us, but for as long as I live, I will remember how He tenderly chose to speak to His young people at SHPC about His promises. You see, by the time I could get all the youth down to see the rainbow, it had multiplied – there were two. He's awesome, isn't He?

May our doubt be transformed into faith. **The Lord we serve is God Almighty, and He is GOOD, always - that is a promise you can KNOW FOR CERTAIN!**

Love,
Molly

Our New Structure

T.L.C.

Transforming Lives for Christ

The Program:

Our new approach to youth ministry, 7th – 12th grade, will combine the three existing programs: Sunday morning CE, Wednesday night Bible study, and Sunday evening fellowship (TLC), under one umbrella or theme for one week (some themes may last longer).

For example:

On any given week we have Bible study, Sunday CE, and Wednesday night Bible study, allowing us four hours to accomplish the theme for a particular week. The program permits each theme to have three components (more if needed), each of which will be implemented during the three opportunities we have with the young people.

Stand alone programs:

Each component of the theme will be designed to “stand alone” so that no youth will ever feel lost if they are unable to attend a particular event. While one theme will guide Wednesday night Bible study, Sunday morning Sunday School, and Sunday night PYC, students will be able to pick up and join in no matter how many of these events they attend. While it is preferable and we encourage students to attend all components of a theme, it is not necessary in order for a single component to be meaningful.

For more information on our program and events, please visit the youth website at <http://www.shpc.us>. You will find the Youth link on the left hand sidebar.

In Christ,
Mark Coats

Kirkin' o' the Tartans

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans will be held at both services on October 26 with a churchwide lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service. At this lunch, we will honor our seniors (65 and older) and members who have been at Spring Hill for 40 or more years. Cost - Adult: \$7.00, Child: \$3.00; Family Max: \$25.00. Our honorees will be guests. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Current Scriptures class

Current Scriptures provides an opportunity to study scripture that is timeless and therefore always current. Each week offers a close look at a specific scripture that is central to our faith in Christ. The class format will be an interactive discussion that focuses on the scripture of the week while also considering its historical context, Biblical cross-references, inspired hymns, related commentary, and much more. Current Scriptures class meets in Room #9 in the Edington Building. Members and visitors are welcome, whether for one Sunday or consistently. Below are the scriptures that will be studied in October:

10/05/08 John 3:16;
10/12/08 John 1:12;
10/19/08 Titus 3:5;
10/26/08 2 Corinthians 5:21.3.

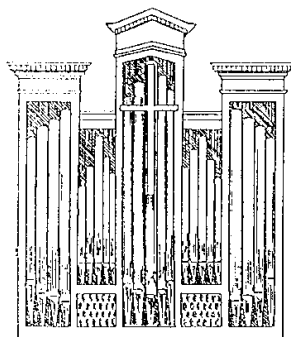


**Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time ends
November 2. Turn back your clock one hour.**

Birthday Organ Concert

By Randall Sheets
Including the Chancel Choir

With organ and choral music by Anniversary Composers
Buxtehude, Distler, Vaughan Williams, and Messiaen
also music by **J. S. Bach** and **César Franck**



Thursday, October 30
7:00 p.m.



Choir Worship Participation in October

Elementary Choirs (Carol and Junior Choirs): Oct. 26, 8:30
Youth Chorale: Oct. 5, 8:30
Youth Handbells: Oct. 19
Spring Hill Ringers: Oct. 19
Chancel Choir: each Sunday at 11:00

Presbyterian Women News

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

Presbyterian Women will gather on Wednesday, October 8 when the Honorary Life member will be honored 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. All Presbyterians are invited!



Stewardship Committee

In his sermon of September 14th, Dr. McCrummen reminded us of the integral part stewardship plays in our expression of faith. He challenged us to live every moment in gratitude for our blessings and in service to our Lord. The life of Irene Sendler was told as an example of the courage that comes with the commitment to do everything possible to help those in need without being deterred by the risks. I believe everyone who heard the story will remember what she did to save almost 2,500 Jewish babies and children during the Second World War.

The challenges before us at Spring Hill are nowhere near as great as Irena Sendler's, but they are nevertheless ours to meet and ours by which our faith can be deepened, and all for the sake of God's kingdom.

Spring Hill's budget for 2008 is almost \$1.3 million. This includes benevolences far beyond our campus: some to the presbytery, and others to the Presbyterian Children's Home, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank, Penelope House, Victory Health Clinic, Healthcare for the Homeless, Young Life, L'Arche of Mobile, Ozanam Pharmacy, the Family Counseling Center, Crittenden Teen Services, Wings of Life, Family Promise, and the Catholic Service Center.

Of course we have our on-campus expenses: maintenance of buildings and grounds, utility expenses, as well as several very strong programmatic expenses (youth, education, music, and campus ministries). Then we have our personnel expenses. All to say, Spring Hill Presbyterian does a great deal because the membership expects a great deal. We are a committed and thankful congregation that wants to do its part to advance the kingdom of God on earth.

However, we need to remember how much our church needs *everyone's* support to accomplish the goal the Lord has set before us.

As of today, we have received \$780,426 toward our 2008 budget of \$1,279,800. I hope you will examine whether you are able to fulfill your pledge, and, if circumstances allow, to make an extra gift to the operating budget.

God has blessed and strengthened Spring Hill in so many ways; in response, let's show our gratitude by returning to God His tithes and our offerings.

Respectfully yours,

R. Gordon Mowry
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Memorial Lecture Series

Government Street Presbyterian Church is having its 2008 Memorial Lecture Series October 26 & 27. A detailed brochure can be found on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Rock of Ages

The Christian hymn "Rock of Ages" is based on verses from Exodus 33:12-23 and was inspired by a cliff in Somerset, England. There is also a very popular Jewish hymn, often sung at Hanukkah, called "Rock of Ages."

Library News

“Reformed. Always reforming”

This mantra was once part of the ionic logo for the Presbyterian church. Not being a part of the present logo does not keep it from being relevant now, however.

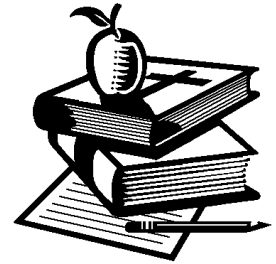
Dealing with change and transformation will always be part of the reformed tradition. And with Calvin’s 500th anniversary a few months away, it is most relevant to the Worship Committee’s struggle with additional worship forms to consider. How do we stay faithful to the PC(USA) and meet the newcomers who seek expression of their faith?

Tom Long’s *Beyond the Worship Wars*; Ronald Bryar’s *The Future of Protestant Worship*; or D. A. Carson’s *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church* may hold the answer.

Still the library’s mission is to assist and make additions of various writers to add to our understanding of mission.

Pastor Mark’s Wednesday studies into the various directives for spiritual growth and example will be represented by writers and some of the bio’s following 20th century leaders: contributions from Karl Rahner, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen to Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be displayed in the library.

Become better acquainted with these giants not just of Reformed tradition, but representative of other faiths and followings.



Prichard Youth Golf Camp

More than 40 boys and girls ages 7 to 14, participated in the golf program for four weeks during July at Highpointe Golf Course. Dr. Jerry Williams, retired USA professor of Providence Presbyterian, Dr. Dale Adams, Bobby McNeely and Billy McLean from Spring Hill, and several members of Corpus Christi Catholic Church along with several members of the Gulf City Golf Association, joined in leading the program in its third year.

Prichard Mayor, Ron Davis, presented awards to all the children and Dale Adams arranged to have a golf club and ball for each one. Some received medals for winning drive, chip and putt competitions. Also, one boy and one girl received medals for best exemplifying the words stressed in the program that related golf etiquette to life experiences. Several such words included safety, respect, patience and self control.

Bobby McNeely

Blood Drive

The Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Service Committee supports the American Red Cross with two Blood Drives each year, and it is time again for the Fall Blood Drive. We ask you to Please Give that Others May Live.

Sunday, October 12, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bullard Building - ID Required

If you are unable to donate blood, you can still help by volunteering to work with registration or in the canteen. Call the church office to volunteer or to reserve a donation time, 342-1550.

Calendar of Events

October 12 - Red Cross Blood Drive

October 25 - Service Center Wine Festival
at 5 Rivers

Contact marcyharris@bellsouth.net

October 27 - Habitat Build

First Thursday Lunch Bunch News!!!

Mark your calendar NOW! We'll be opening the 2008-2009 season in style on Thursday, October 2, 2008. Something new this year – the Parlor will be available at 10:30 a.m. for coffee, conversation, or assorted table games. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (cost: \$6.00 per person). You will need to call the church office to make a reservation so Pat, our “chef extraordinaire”, will have enough food on hand!

Our theme for this year's program is GETTING TO KNOW OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER! Pastor Mark, in a summer sermon, encouraged us to “break our tradition.” We are doing just that in inviting hungry people of any age or gender to join us for fun, fellowship, and a yummy lunch. Plans for a great year have been in the works for months. We hope you will invite a friend, a spouse, or a neighbor to join us. DO YOU NEED A RIDE? Call Janie Sims (340-6534) and she will arrange transportation.

Here is just a sample of what's in store for you:

Oct. 2 – Pastor will speak about his African Mission Trip and thoughts on how we can “Think globally and act locally.”

Nov. 6 – Leisure and Talent – Show and Tell. You'll have to come to find out!

Dec. 4 – Christmas Memories and, of course our traditional Santa Exchange!

2009 will begin with a bang with a special speaker – watch other newsletters for that info! Also in the works, valentines for those who need a loving message, singing to honor the oldies as well as the new. Our spring round-up will require “hands on” with special guests.

Get ready – we are looking forward to sharing all this fun with you!



Hebrews 10:24

“AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.” Who benefits from Stephen Ministry? Everybody benefits. Those receiving care benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in a meaningful ministry. Most of all YOU benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. If you think a Stephen Minister could help you or someone you know, contact Margaret Miller at 344-3937.

ACTIVE STEPHEN MINISTERS: Corinne Atkinson, Dick Bradley, Jane Bulwinkle, Sissy Crowe (Overlook Presbyterian), Ruth Fitzgerald, Ellen Johnston, Betty Minto, William Shreve, Cassie Steele, Loretta Turner, Amy Walton, and Nancy Adams.



Thank you note

I want to thank all the members of Spring Hill Presbyterian who sent expressions of sympathy following the death of my mother, Mae Reynolds Beall. Many of you remembered her visits to SHPC when I served as your interim. She was elderly then, but she died at 104 and was vibrant until the final few months of her life. We are celebrating her life and faith.

Frank Beall



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Eva Macon, Carolyn Montalban and Sarah Clarke in the death of their husband and father, Paul Macon, on August 22; and with Frank Beall in the death of his mother, Mae Reynolds Beall, on August 23 in Hattiesburg.

Honorarium

An Honorarium has been received for Sallie Connell from a friend.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Katherine Caine
Paul Macon

From the following:

Gina Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. M. Wilson Gaillard, Jr.
Norman & Ruth Berger
Harry Berger
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Roberts
Robert E. Williams, III
Gary & Christine Roberts Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Donaghey
Anne Wright
Edith Cox
Billy & Sue McLean
Ruth Fitzgerald
Pharmacists of USA Medical Center
Technicians of USA Medical Center
Jean & Arthur Williams
Duncan & Frances McDonald
Ben & Martha Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. McGehee
Dee Evans
Katta Simon
Janie Sims

Gaylord & Betty Lyon
Marilyn & Charlie Chambliss
Alan, Tyler, Francis Arden & Caroline Jackson
Vicki Crooms
Molly Wagner
Becky & Jim Burton
The Staff of Gulf Coast Treatment Center, Inc.
Mrs. N. Q. Adams
W. Carter Bryars
J. Manson & Marietta Murray
Charley & Janice Dueul
Jimmy & Jane Bledsoe
Bill & Ruth Coats
Joe & Vilma Croom
Frank & Cathi Dagley
Elizabeth Hagan
Vivian Maitland
Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Fleming
Phyllis Feibelman
Dr. & Mrs. S. P. Dowling
Mary Hunter Slaton
Peggy & Blacksher White-Spunner
Marilyn B. Leon
Sam & Judy Strada
Randy & Vera Lynn Sheets
William & Alix Hardie
Gordon & Margaret Mowry
Allison Richardson

Lectioary for the Lord's Day

October 2008

- 5 *27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps. 19;
Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46
- 12 *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Exod. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;
Phil. 4:1-9; Matt.22:1-14
- 19 *29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Exod. 33:12-23; Ps. 99; 1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 22:15-22
- 26 *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46

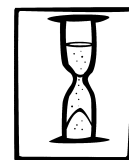
October 2008

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 2008

- 1 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 2 1st Thursday Lunch
- 5 Lord's Supper
Confirmation Lunch
- 7 Committees
8. Presbyterian Women General Meeting and Luncheon – 10:30 a.m.
- 10 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 12 Blood Drive – 8:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- 14 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 24-25 Presbytery meeting – First Presbyterian at Gulf Shores
- 26 Kirkin' o' the Tartans (both services) – Church Lunch – Noon
- 30 Organ Concert by Randy Sheets and the Chancel Choir



Time Talent Treasure

The Bumble Bee

Did you know that the bumble bee cannot fly? It's a very silly question, because of course, bumble bees do fly. Yet, according to the laws of aerodynamics, they should not be able to.

A bumble bee's wings are, in theory, too small to lift the weight of its body. But, apparently, no one told the bee that fact, and so they fly. Quite well, in fact. They do so by flapping their wings not up and down, as one might expect, but back and forth.

"With God, all things are possible," Jesus reminds us in Matthew 19:26. Certainly the bumble bee is a living example of this simple but profound truth.



Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers
and pumpkin scones
with extra catnip-herbed
butter for Ti Amo and
Al E. Cat.

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Newsletter

October

