



Dear Saints of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church,

For much of this year, we have been asking a question together: *Where is God already at work, and how are we being called to join God there?* We listened, and we prayed. We have asked questions about discipleship, worship, mission, community, and Spring Hill Presbyterian Church's future. And now, we are beginning to see some of that listening turn into action.

That makes our stewardship theme especially meaningful this year: **Joining God's Work.**

We will begin our stewardship season in worship on Sunday, October 4, and that evening we will gather for a special church dinner. At dinner, I will share what we learned through our recent Listening Campaign. Our elders and deacons were asked to reach out to every household in the congregation. While we couldn't speak with everyone, we heard from many of you about where you experience God at Spring Hill, what you value, what concerns you, and what you hope this church might become.

I am excited for you to hear one another, because something is happening at Spring Hill.

At our recent Yeoman's Day, we began cleaning, sorting, organizing, and imagining how our facilities can better serve our ministry. Session has approved \$100,000 for improvements to our main building, including bathrooms, flooring, painting, furnishings, and adapting spaces for ministry. Soon, we hope to have a nursery and children's worship space in the main building, refreshed fellowship and parlor spaces, improved bathrooms, and new storage in the narthex. The renderings you see in this newsletter offer a glimpse of what some of these spaces could become.

The outward changes we are making reflect an inward transformation already taking place. We are asking how our buildings, ministries, staffing, and resources can reflect who we believe God is calling us to become.

Session has also committed up to \$75,000 from reserves to help offset a future deficit as we seek to call an Associate Pastor, provided our congregation can increase total pledges by 10%. That is an act of faith in our future, but it also requires a response. And that is what stewardship is about: **Responding to God.**

For some, that response may mean making a pledge for the first time. For others, it may mean prayerfully increasing a pledge. For many, faithfully maintaining your commitment is itself an important act of generosity. And stewardship certainly does not end with money. We need your hands at our October and November Yeoman's Days. We need your ideas, leadership, prayers, presence, gifts, and willingness to serve.

We are not giving for a future ministry; we are giving toward what is already happening here at SHPC! Spring Hill is changing. We are growing in engagement, deepening our ministry, welcoming new people, reimagining our spaces, and discerning how God is calling us to serve Mobile in the years ahead. The invitation of this stewardship season is simply this: **Come join God's work.**

There is room for you in what God is creating here.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Brandon E. Miles

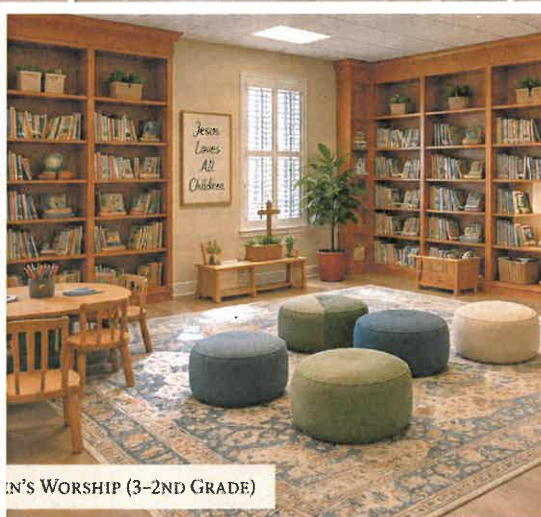
IMAGINE THE
POSSIBILITIES'



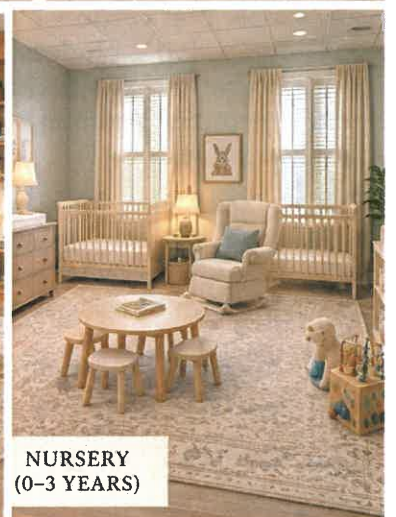
FELLOWSHIP HALL



PARLOR



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (3-2ND GRADE)



NURSERY
(0-3 YEARS)



It's a FRIGHT!

Perhaps my favorite holiday is Halloween (I know, it is heresy not to say "Christmas", but there it is.) I decorate extensively with Halloween villages and figures and have a Halloween wreath on the door early in October. I can hardly wait each year!

One of the fun things that I enjoy during the Halloween season is performing a Halloween concert. I've done them for many years and am truly thrilled to be bringing one to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. So, on Sunday, November 1 at 2 PM, I'll present *It's a FRIGHT!* in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, I know it is the day after Halloween, but you'll want to be home to hand out candy ON Halloween!

There will be all kinds of fun and spooky music to enjoy, and you'll probably know much of it. There will be music from creepy TV shows like *The Addams Family* and *The Twilight Zone*. We will sing Charlie Brown's "traditional" Pumpkin Carols like *I'm Dreaming of the Great Pumpkin* and *Pumpkin Bells*. And, yes, I'll even play Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* plus a few other fun pieces to keep us all in the mood.

It's truly fun for all ages. So, don't be scared just because *It's a FRIGHT!* Come and enjoy some Halloween fun (but the day AFTER Halloween!) See you there!





Get Involved and Make a Difference!

Recently, two of the founding members of the Coal Ash Action Group spoke to the Current Issues Sunday School class regarding the 21 million tons of toxic coal ash polluting groundwater with arsenic, cobalt, and other heavy metals at the Plant Barry coal ash pond. Part of their presentation included the showing of the film, "**Sallie's Ashes**", that shows how three retired grandmothers put together a grassroots campaign to alert citizens about the need to remove coal ash in our area.

The Ben May Library has scheduled a showing of this award-winning film on **Thursday, October 22 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** The 40 minute film will be shown in Bernheim Hall with a question and answer period to follow. As a **Earth Care Congregation** the steering committee of the Current Issues Class felt that many in the congregation would be interested in seeing the film as well as hearing the facts that these women have uncovered. Since this group has begun researching and publicizing information, Alabama Power has taken steps to contain the ash but the approach is not a long-term solution because it neither stops toxic metals from leaking into groundwater, nor eliminates the risk of a dike breach. Here are some of the facts the Coal Ash Action Group has uncovered:

- The pond, located just 25 miles north of Mobile, spans 451 football fields and is surrounded on three sides by the Mobile River in the Tensaw Delta.

- A single earthen dike is all that prevents this toxic waste from flooding the Delta and then disseminating into the Mobile and Tensaw Rivers and Mobile Bay.

- A breach of the retaining dike would release 20 times more toxic material than the BP Oil Spill, which occurred 96 miles from Alabama's coast. This is in our backyard.

- In 2019, the Public Service Commission gave Alabama Power a 3% rate increase to remediate wet, stored coal ash. Alabama Power elected to "cap in place," even though the pit itself is unlined and toxic materials still leak into the groundwater. It also does not eliminate the risk of a dike breach.

- In May 2024, the EPA rejected Alabama's coal ash permit program, finding that it does not meet Federal protection standards. Alabama Power partnered with Eco Material Technology to begin recycling pond ash. However, they have only committed to recycling 1/3 of the ash, leaving 14 million tons on the side of the river.

- Despite customers already paying for cleanup, Alabama remains the **only** Southeastern state not committed to complete recycling and excavating such high-risk sites.

A category 3, 4 or 5 hurricane or the tropical storm remnants of a hurricane like Helene that hit Western North Carolina in 2024, dropping 30 inches of rain, could breach the dike, sending ash across 30 square miles of the Delta and into Mobile Bay. This would make Mobile and Baldwin counties the most polluted industrial sites in the nation. For more information go to MoveTheAsh.com and mobilepubliclibrary.org/event/coal-ash-action-group-presents-sallies-ashes-16444.

Source: MoveTheAsh.com



YOUTH GROUP • FALL 2026

OCTOBER

FAITH. FRIENDSHIP. PURPOSE.

OCT 4

STEWARDSHIP DINNER

6:00 PM

Church-wide stewardship dinner.
Youth join congregation and help lead.

OCT 11

NO YOUTH GROUP

Enjoy your Sunday evening!

OCT 18

CONTENTMENT

Blessing of the Animals • 5:30 PM

Dinner • 6:00 PM | Youth Group • 6:30 PM

Topic: Contentment — What does it mean
to have enough and find joy?

OCT 25

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Dinner • 6:00 PM

Can or Treat and Sweet Dreams Haunted House.
Bring your courage for a fun night together!



Current Issues Sunday School Class for Fall, 2026

This month we continue to explore issues of importance to our community and our church, as we ask ourselves, “How do we respond to this as Christians?”

Oct. 4 – Robert Holbert, Co-publisher and Managing Editor of *Lagniappe*, will discuss pressures and challenges faced by journalists and those in the news business these days. How does this relate to Freedom of Speech; and how do we respond, as Christians?

Oct. 11– Barkley Shreve to lead class discussion around stewardship as it relates to our church’s 2026-2027 Goals and Aspirations.

Oct. 18 – Cynthia Tucker, Journalist and Pulitzer Prize Winning Commentator, currently Journalist in Residence at USA, will share a presentation on “Finding Truth in an Age of Disinformation.”

Oct. 25 – Presentation/discussion by Myra Evans, Alabama Board Member with the League of Women Voters, to discuss the work of the LWV, election preparation, how the 14th Amendment is being challenged in Alabama, and what we need to know to be ready to vote on Nov. 3.

Join us in Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00; and bring a visitor!



YOU ARE INVITED

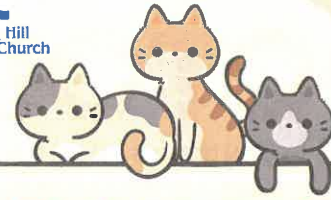
CHURCH-WIDE DINNER



OCTOBER 4th at 6:00 PM

The Stewardship Committee invites you to a church-wide dinner of a build-your-own taco meal, and Key Lime pie for dessert! After dinner we will play a church trivia game and participate in guided table conversations. We will also hear the Pastor's report from our listening campaign.

Sign up in the back hall or call the church office to make a reservation.



BLESSING of the animals

OCTOBER 18th

5:30 PM

We will meet under the big oak in the front of the church.

This cherished tradition honors the sacred bond between humans and all living creatures, celebrating the beauty of God's creation. Whether your companion is furry, feathered, or scaled, all are welcome!



YOU ARE INVITED

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars! The Stewardship Committee invites you to a Celebration Luncheon on October 25 following our worship service. Join us for a delicious hot lunch as we share where we believe God is leading us, celebrate our congregation's generosity and dedicate the coming year's ministry to God.

Sign up in the back hall or call the church office to make a reservation.

OCTOBER 25TH



Memorials

*Cammie Belue Janet Clark Molly Lankford
Royce Ray Ellen Sumrall*

*Ruth Fitzgerald
Chris Brown
Emily & Buzz Quarles
Carolyn & Tad Wikle*

*Mitch & Sally Cobb
Cathi & Frank Dagley
Robert & Linda Ellis*

Stewardship

The theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is "Joining God's Work". While our financial pledges are necessary to fund the operations of our church, our gifts of Time and Talent are equally important as we join God's work here at SHPC.

This year's Time and Talent survey can be found online at the church's website (hard copies will be available in the hallway) with an important addition: we have added descriptions of the various committees and service opportunities. It is our hope that these descriptions will help you better understand the time commitment and the scope of work involved for each area of service. The online Time and Talent survey will be accessible with a link sent in the weekly newsletter as well as with a QR code printed in the bulletin on Sundays. The committee descriptions will also be available using a link in the survey or in the weekly newsletter.

Our recent listening campaign revealed that many of you feel most connected to the church by your committee service. This is also an excellent way to get to know your fellow members. We need your ideas, your leadership, and your willingness to serve so that we can fully Join God's Work! Be sure to give prayerful consideration to both your financial pledge and your pledge of service and involvement.

Statement as of August 31, 2026

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 781,160
Year-to-date Received	\$ 486,857
Other Receipts	\$ 77,265
Total Receipts	\$ 564,122
Benevolences	\$ -
Salaries and Services	\$ 266,906
Programs	\$ 28,499
Office Expenses	\$ 16,247
General and Plant Services	\$ 160,462
Other	\$ 43,335
Total Expenses	\$ 515,450
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ 48,672

Attendance for September

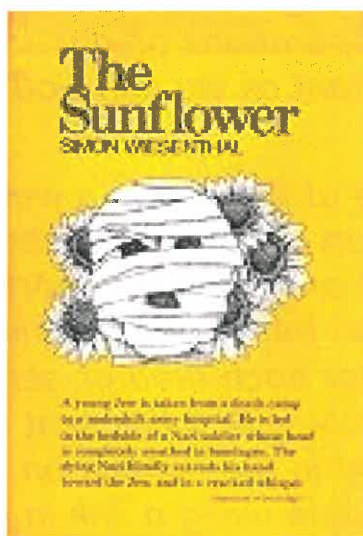
	In person	Online
September 6	112	22
September 13	143	75
September 20	109	56
September 28	140	58



\$75 | Contact

Ann Magee (251) 232-2646

Newsletter Deadline October 22



Men's Breakfast

Thursday October 8

7:00 AM

Conference Room

Join us for breakfast
and Bible study.

Prayer List:

Margaret Armentrout, Trey Andrews, Ted Auttersen, Barbara Beach, Jim Beach, Chester W. Brown, Frank Callahan, John Carr, Lanier Cauley, Mary Clark, Jamie Crawford, Cathi Dagley, Drew Delaney, Helen Delaney, Rosemary Delaney, Pat Edington, Ruth Fitzgerald, Cathy Foust, Mary Lee Franks, Todd Greer, Ann Hafner, Perry Hand, Tommy Hightower, Staci Hand, Tom Hand, Bill Harris, Marcy Harris, the Hensley Family, Mary Holley, Ann Holston, Sue Jardine, Bill Layfield, Sara Long, Lynn Martin, Norman McCrummen, Ernestine McElroy, Zachary McMickens, Anne Meador, the Mosteller Family, Dianne Oveson, Jenny Oveson, Mary Owen, Buddy Porter, John Porter, Christina Rives, Jim Root, Susan Schlichting, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Malcolm Warren, Calvin Weaver, Bruce Weinard, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Music Class Westminster Communion Service MSC Board Meeting	2 Girl Scouts	3 AA
4 Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship Children's & Youth Choir Stewardship Kickoff Dinner Youth Group	5 Balance Group Outreach Committee MSC Religious Art Girl Scouts	6 Staff Meeting MSC Christian ED. Worship Mission	7 PWCT Children's Chapel Handbells AI-non Chancel Choir	8 Men's Break- fast Bible Study PEO Music Class	9	10 AA MBA Fall Fes- tival
11 Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship	12 Office is Closed MSC Post Church	13 MBA Teacher Breakfast MSC Communica- tions Comm. Facilities	14 Morning Circle Children's Chapel Day Circle Handbells AI-non Chancel Choir	15 Music Class Night Circle	16	17 AA Yeoman Workday
18 Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship Mobile Art Ass. Children's & Youth Choir Blessing of the Animals	19 Blue Chips Balance Group MSC	20 Staff Meeting MSC Session Diaconate	21 Children's Chapel Congregation- al Care Handbells AI-non Chancel Choir	22 Newsletter Deadline Writing Group Music Class	23	24 AA
25 Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship Lunch Book Club Children's & Youth Choir Youth Group	26 Balance Group MSC Post Church	27 Staff Meeting MSC	28 Children's Chapel Handbells AI-non Chancel Choir	29 Music Class Trunk or Treat	30	31 AA

