

SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 81, Number 3, April, 2017

RADICAL GRATITUDE

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

As I write this letter I am still reveling in joy and appreciation for our recent Festival of Faith. Seeing so many of our members spread around the Mobile community in acts of service and compassion was powerful. Some of us donated blood at our blood drive, and some of us packed food at Feeding the Gulf Coast. Some of us served meals to the homeless at the Government Street Coffee Club, and some of us served pizza to our preschoolers. Some of us cleaned up a park through Mobile Baykeeper, and some of us beautified the grounds and visited residents at Allen Memorial Home. All of us (whether we participated in one of these projects or not) were reflecting the love of Christ in our community as a truly serving church.

Also, over this recent Festival of Faith, we welcomed Dr. Robert Williamson who used the book of Revelation to open our eyes to some of the death-dealing ways of the empires of our world, and to our calling as the Church to be a counter-cultural community of life and light. It was powerful! There were four responses that Dr. Williamson outlined for what we as Christians are called to do: 1) speak to and point to the truth, 2) worship the crucified and risen lord, 3) create opportunities, spaces, and relationships where God's resurrecting love can be experienced, and 4) endure in the faith together. This vision for the church as a community of faithful resistances is one that I hope we will reflect on and wrestle with for years to come.

As we conclude our season of Lent and move forward together into the events of "Holy Week," it is important to remember that our calling as Christians (lived out in those four actions) is first and foremost grounded not in what we do, but in who Christ is and what Christ has already done for us. Christ's death and resurrection for us is the ultimate and triumphant act of resistance to the death-dealing empires of

the world. In these cosmos-changing events our salvation is accomplished for us and we are opened up to the truth that death does not have the final word and that the systems and institutions that do not participate in God's life-giving love, will ultimately fail. There is a deep and profound freedom that comes from this truth, and it is one that, among other things, engenders a sense of awe, wonder, and radical gratitude for God's grace. So, in these days ahead I hope you will join with your church family and gather together to worship the one who "was crucified, dead, and buried" and "on the third day rose again from the dead." May that worship not be restricted to a few actions once a week, but may it blossom and flourish in lives of gratitude, mercy, sacrifice, and hospitality.

I am deeply grateful for this community of faith, and the ways that we experience hope and resurrection life together in our midst. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Holy Week Services

April 9 - Passion/Palm Sunday
(10:30 AM in the sanctuary)

April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service
(7:00 PM in the chapel)

April 14 - Good Friday Service
(12:15 PM in the chapel)
Musical Meditations on the Lamb of God
(12:00 PM in the chapel)

April 16 - Easter Sunday
(10:30 AM in the sanctuary)

Current Issues March Class Schedule

April 2 Race and Bias

(NYT Resource) **Panel:** Tim, Billy, Dale, Judy S. (AV needed)

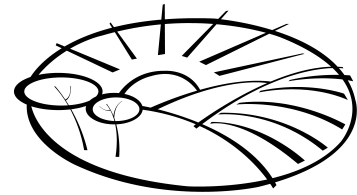
April 9: TBA

April 16: Billy McLean, TBA

April 23: **Woven Together in Spirituality**

(congregation-wide event)

April 30: **“So your grandchild wants to go to medical school. What should we do?”** Sam Strada



Peace and Comfort

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Pat Stoll in the death of her mother, Irene Fue, on February 27; with Catherine Stodghill in the death of her husband, Burt, on March 2; with Norma Baymiller in the death of her brother, Howard Stephens, on March 12 in Little Rock; with Dick Pennington in the death of his daughter, Mary Ann Givhan, on March 13.



Save the Date:

Easter Egg Hunt and Food Trucks

Thursday, April 6, 5:30-7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt at 6:00 pm

Vacation Bible School: Abundance Orchard

June 26-29, 2017

Registration is Open

Graduation Sunday and Senior Breakfast

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 9 am

We need people to make casseroles, bring fruit and goodies!

Want to help? Contact Cindy Campbell.



Remembering Who is in Charge.

Dear Friends,

In this season, you might be feeling pressure. For our children and youth, maybe it's pressure to get good grades, be the best soccer player, dancer, or artist. For our working folk, maybe it's getting the raise or supporting your family. For the church maybe it's growth. All of these are good pursuits, important pursuits. Yet how quickly can they be manipulated into something that is all-consuming and life-squelching—when we forget to take Sabbath because we have to meet that deadline—and there's always a deadline: when our children and youth are overwhelmed by anxiety because of the pressure to make the grades, get into the right school, and “succeed.”

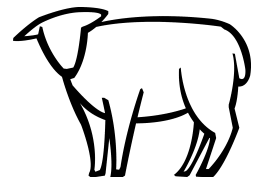
Our Festival of Faith speaker, Bobby Williamson has got me thinking that maybe we are focused on the wrong things. We have become enslaved by powers that are not healthy, that are all-consuming. We worship success or growth or possessions at the cost of our own humanity. In this season of Lent, we are called to stop.

Pause. Take Sabbath and remember who is in charge. We are called to challenge the empire, challenge the notion that we have to be the best, have the best things, and keep climbing the ladder. God calls us to be a different kind of community—a place of rest and comfort, a place of renewal and challenge.

My hope, in this busy season is that we remember whose we are. We belong to God. And our God is a God of resurrection. When we reach our own limits, we realize we aren't in charge. And if we fail, maybe then we might see the hope and new life of resurrection. In this time, journeying to Easter, let us change our thinking. Let us take time to rest, pray, and reflect. Let us journey with Christ to the cross.

Peace,

Anna Fulmer



Children's Ministry News

What Jesus wants us to do.

April lessons will be centered on the Easter story. We will begin April by learning about serving others, and that by helping others, we are doing what Jesus wants us to do.

On Palm Sunday, we will learn why people were so excited to see Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. We will talk about how God's grace is the gift of Jesus Christ. The children will also have their own Palm Sunday "parade".

Easter Sunday will be spent learning the greatest message ever- that Jesus has risen! We will take turns looking in our own "empty tomb" and celebrate our risen Lord.

The Promise of Easter.

The last two Sundays in April will be spent learning about the reactions of Jesus' followers to the news that Jesus was alive. We will learn the promise of Easter, that Jesus is with us every day. The children will discuss ways to bless others and share the news of Jesus resurrection.

We will also learn about the Beatitudes, and that these are blessings taught as part of the Sermon on the Mount. The children will discuss ways to encourage and support others.

In children's church, we will continue our lessons from Sunday school. We will have extra activities to celebrate the Easter season!

Open Registration for Fall begins April 4th.

Mother's Day Out is accepting children 2 months – 2 years old and Week Day School has Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 classes. Spots are filling up fast! Feel free to stop by for a tour and pick up a registration form. Please call Heather Fayard, 251-344-2070, if you have any questions.

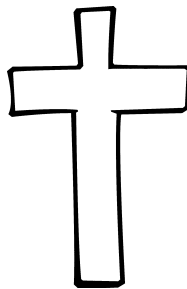


WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATIONS: A FIVE YEAR COMMITMENT TO RENEW OUR SACRED SPACE.

OUR GOAL - \$750,000 over the next five years to fully fund our renewal.

OUR PRIORITIES – new energy efficient HVAC systems for all our buildings; better handicap accessibility; new roofs overhead; improved parking and drainage; repairs to our sanctuary organ; upgrading sound and audio/visual technology and kitchen equipment; a 10% tithe of all funds pledged will support the Presbyterian Home for Children, UKirk campus ministry and the Montreat Conference Center.

OUR JOY – to continue to be a vibrant, welcoming congregation where generations to come and new seekers today can be embraced by the love of Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the peace of God and hear the Good News of the Gospel.



LET US PREPARE OUR PATH WITH PRAYER:

Gracious and Merciful God you call us with a quiet whisper, give us ears to hear. Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done we dutifully pray. Give us courage to seize those opportunities placed before us to see that glorious day. Give us strength to both bear fruit in our season and plant seeds for the future. Give us compassion to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to the sacred spaces you have entrusted to us. And grant us the overwhelming joy that comes when we gratefully share Your precious gifts, to the glory of your Kingdom. In the name of the most precious gift of all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

First Pledge Commitment Day will be Sunday May 14th.

Harvie Jordan,
for the Capital Campaign Steering Committee

Music Notes

by Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

April will be a rich month in worship music here at SHPC. In addition to our own choirs and ringers, guest musical groups will provide music on two Sunday mornings---one is a touring middle school choir and the other is a university instrumental group. We will also be able to unwrap our pipe organ and let it sound again! See the following schedule to anticipate the musical flowers that will bloom here in April.

Sunday, April 2 (10:30 worship). Music by the touring group **New Song, a middle school choir** from the school of First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Wednesday, April 5 (12:00 Noon). **Music for Meditation in the chapel** (preceding the 12:15 Celtic worship service.) Tom Donald, tenor with Randy Sheets, organ.

Palm Sunday, April 9 (10:30 worship.) **Music by our children's choirs, Youth Chorale, Chancel Choir, and handbells.**

Maundy Thursday, April 13, (7:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion in the chapel). **Men's Sextet.**

Good Friday, April 14. (12:00 noon, preceding the 12:15 worship service). **Musical Meditations on The Lamb of God**---music by J. S. Bach, Frank Martin, and G. P. Telemann. Randy Sheets, organ, with singer to be announced.

Easter Sunday, April 16. (10:30 worship). **Music by the Chancel Choir, brass quartet, and timpani.**

Sunday, April 23 (10:30 worship). Music by The **Trumpet Ensemble of the University of South Alabama**. Seven students playing trumpet under the direction of Dr. Peter Wood. Through recent years, this group has been selected to play at prestigious events, such as the conference of the International Trumpet Guild in Sydney, Australia.

Sunday, April 30 (10:30 worship). **Spring Hill Ringers** handbell choir in a





Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on April 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Circles meet on Wednesday, **April 12** as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. in David's Diner
- #2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor
- #3 at 9:30 am. in the Parlor

Important dates:

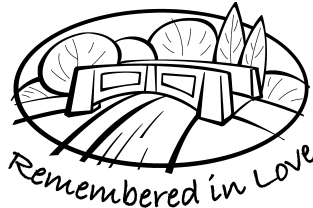
May 10 – Birthday Luncheon and Installation of Officers. Budget Presented.

July 13-15 – AL/MS Women's Conference, South Highland Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

Memorials have been received for the following:

Memorials have been received for the following:

- Mary Beth Culp
- Irene Fue
- Mary Anne Givhan
- Burt Stodghill



From the following:

- Richard & Elizabeth Britton
- Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.
- Nick Vrakelos
- Cort & Susan Schlichting
- Molly Wagner
- Sara Long
- Matt & Cammie Singleton, Harper, Mary Howard and Lamey
- Jane & Louis Williams

Statement as of February 2017	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$882,285
Year to date received	124,572
Other receipts	5,188
Total Receipts	\$129,760
Benevolences	6,417
Salaries and services	92,811
Programs	4,906
Office expenses	3,980
General & plant services	21,612
Other	905
Total Expenses	\$130,631
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$871

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY APRIL 2017

- 2 Acts 21:1-14** **23 John 20:19-29**
- 9 Matt.21:1-11** **30 John 21:4-19**
- 16 Matt 28: 1-10**

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- **Backpack Foods Reminder!**
- We will be assembling backpacks
- on **Saturday, April 1, at 9:00AM,**
- in room 215 in the Bullard Building.
- Your help in assembling the
- backpacks is greatly appreciated.
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Calendar for April 2017	
1	Assembling Backpacks – 9:00 a.m.
4	Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Committees
5	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 am. Women's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care – 11:00 a.m. Lenten Communion Service – 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
6	Spirituality and Writing – 3:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
9	Communion
11	Newsletter Deadline
12	Circles
13	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m. Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Chapel – 7:00 p.m.
14	Church Office Closed Good Friday Noon Service in the Chapel – 12:00 p.m.
17	Church Office Closed
18	Session – 6:00 p.m. Diaconate - 7:00 p.m.
19	Women's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
23	CPR class
25	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:00 a.m.
26	Women's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
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www.shpc.us

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