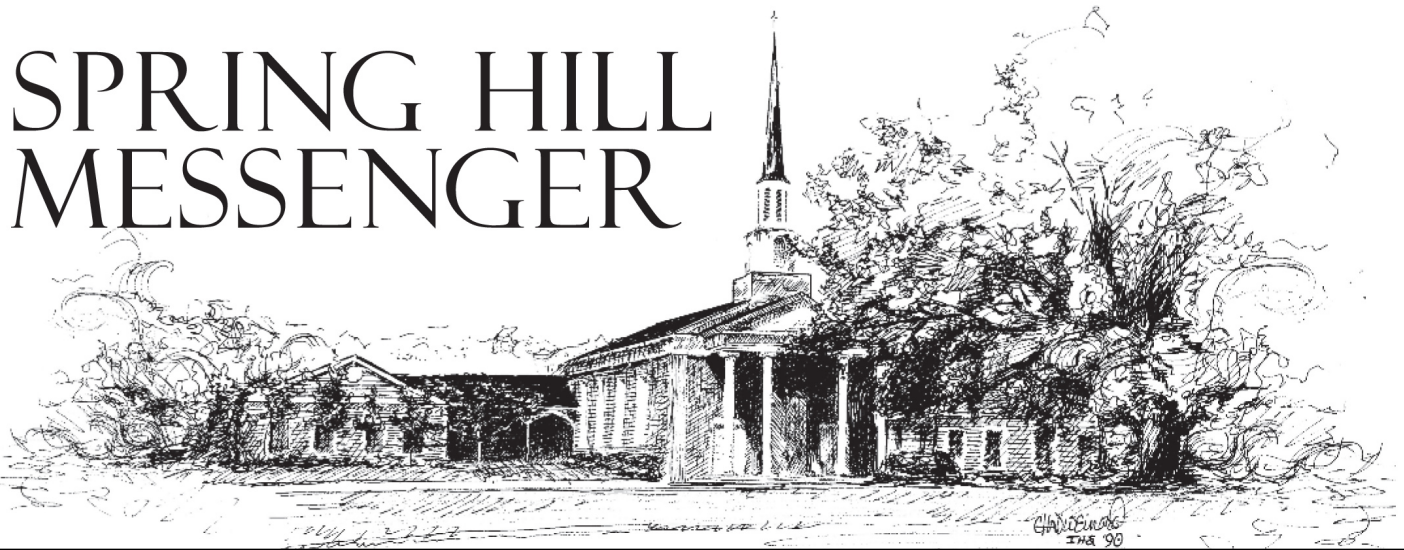


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 82, Number 13, April, 2018

“Let us not mock God with metaphor”

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” - Romans 6:5

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

Easter is in the air: bright pastel colors, crisp seersucker suits, blooming flowers, and every kind of candy in the world shaped to look like eggs. The commodification of Easter is in full force, rivaling Valentine's Day and Halloween as holidays that require you to buy “stuff.” This season has not yet hit the same level of commercial value as Christmas, but just give it time. Part of the appeal of Easter as a wide-spread cultural phenomenon is its association with the beginning of Spring. The warming of the weather and sights and sounds of new life seem to fit right in with the story of Jesus' new life on Easter.

There's just one problem with this cozy co-opting of Easter into a celebration of Spring: it has nothing to do with the biblical story of the resurrection!!! Yes, the events did take place in this time of year because it occurred during the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. But the biblical story is about betrayal, sin, institutional violence, oppression, suffering, forsakenness, suffering, and death. AND THEN RESURRECTION. Jesus' death and resurrection is not some metaphor for the transition from winter into spring, from seeds into plants, from eggs into chicks, from cocoons into butterflies. The cycles of nature that repeat year after year are part of the process of creation, they are expected and anticipated. Jesus' return from the dead is anything but typical or cyclical. It wasn't natural. In fact, it was the very definition of supernatural—beyond and above the patterns of the world as we know it. Easter is the beginning of God's new creation, redeeming the brokenness of the old creation and setting us free from the dominion of death itself.

While it may be a good way to trick people into buying candy, the association of Jesus' resurrection with the bunnies and baby chicks is a wholesale cheapening of the power, wonder, shock, and death-conquering love that is at the heart of our Christian faith. The author John Updike conveys the unparalleled reality of the Easter story in a wonderfully, powerful poem called, “Seven Stanzas at Easter.” He writes:

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse,
the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.



Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

Grace and Peace,

Buz



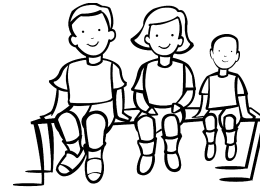
PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN PRESENTATION

An informative new video about PHFC and the vision of its new President, Doug Marshall, will be shown during the Current Issues Sunday School Class on 4/8/18.

Several members of our congregation will be on hand to share experiences from previous mission trips to the Home in Talladega, and a chance for Q & A as well.

Our next trip is scheduled for either the weekend (Fri-Sun) of 4/20 – 4/22 or 5/4 – 5/6 depending on which dates work best for all. Transportation, meals, and lodging will be provided.

We encourage all to attend the class on 4/8 and join us on our next trip. For further information, please contact Ted Auttersen 251-591-4091



Children's Sunday School

During the month of April, our children's Sunday school classes and children's church lessons will focus on Jesus' resurrection and events following this miracle.

On the first Sunday of April, we will celebrate the message of Easter: Jesus is alive! Children will take turns rolling away the "rock" in front of our "tomb" and discuss that this is the foundation of the Christian church.

The story for **April 8** will be about the disciples not recognizing Jesus until he breaks bread with them. We will discuss times that we see Jesus in our own lives.

The children will hear the story of "doubting Thomas" on **April 15**. We will talk about the reasons Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus was alive. We will also discuss why we believe in Jesus without seeing him.

On **April 22**, the lesson will be about Nicodemus. The children will learn that God's spirit is inside us to help us live like Jesus.

We will wrap up April with a story about "clothing Christ style." The children will read a letter from Paul to the Colossians. We will talk about everyday clothes and clothes for special occasions. We will learn about our "spiritual clothing" we need to wear- kindness, caring and gentleness.

Spring Hill College CHRISTUS THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

**LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS
APRIL 12, GAUTRELET ROOM
7 P.M.**

Deacons and Church Traditions

Presented by Deacon's Panel; Norman Gale (Our Savior Catholic Church), Joyce Gant (State Street AME Zion), Demetrios Golfos (Annunciation Greek Orthodox), Shelley Turner (First Baptist).

Celebrate Goodness! Hope! Love!

Dear Friends,

I can almost tell you without even thinking (at the time of this writing): it is 11 more days until Easter! This year, I am highly aware and eagerly anticipating Easter because I know what will follow: my wedding! Yet I wonder, if I should not always countdown with such anticipation to Easter because good news awaits: Jesus is Risen! Hallelujah! Often, we celebrate Easter for a day, and then it is gone and forgotten. Life goes on. Yet, we live on the other side of the cross. We know that death does not have the last word. Crying and pain will some day be no more. Shouldn't we always look with joy and anticipation to Easter?—for we are Easter people! We proclaim that Christ is still alive! Maybe I should always plan something as exciting as a wedding right after Easter, to remind me to count down. Get ready. Anticipate what is to come. Celebrate everything—for we know the good news of the Gospel.

Easter Day might be over, but yet we still have so much to look forward to, so much to celebrate. We are Easter people. We follow a risen Christ. God is with us, and our God defeated violence, defeated death, defeated the cross. We have hope. What wonderful news! This Spring, we have so much to celebrate (not just my wedding). On April 15, our Confirmands will be examined and join the church. We will have a reception following to celebrate! May 6, we will celebrate our graduating seniors with a Senior Breakfast at 9 am in the Bullard Building.

Thank you for praying for me, celebrating with me, and loving me as I have been preparing for my wedding. I am so grateful to know such loving people who live as Easter people—celebrating everything! May we look to see God's goodness, hope, and love in our world—may we be bearers of joy and good news each day. In this season, I pray you can find light and life in the hope of our resurrected Lord!

Peace,

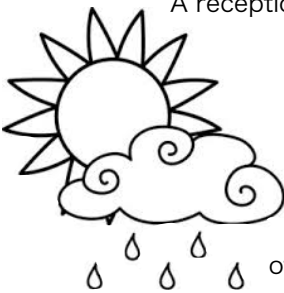
Rev. Anna Fulmer

Save these Dates!

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 15 at 10:30 am

A reception will follow. Join us as we celebrate the newest members of our church!



Presbyterian 101 for Kids

Sunday, April 29 at 9 am

For parents and children.

Want to help your child understand what makes our church unique? Want to begin to expose them to other faith traditions? Then join us as at 9 am on Sunday, April 29 in the Bullard Building!



Vacation Bible School: Abundance Orchard

June 26-29, 2017

Registration is Open

To Sign-Up Please Go to the Church's website!

Graduation Sunday and Senior Breakfast

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 9 am

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

Want to help? Contact Deb Fry.

Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

GUEST PREACHER ON APRIL 8

On Sunday, April 8 we will welcome Rev. Van Edington as our guest preacher while our pastors are out of town for Rev. Anna Fulmer's wedding (which Buz Wilcoxon is officiating). Van grew up in Spring Hill Presbyterian Church and his father, Dr. David Edington, served as pastor for 24 years. We are excited to welcome him back home and hear his message for us.

SCRIPTURE FOR APRIL:

APRIL 2018

April 1- Mark 15:46-16:8

April 8 – John 20:19-31

April 15 -Matthew 25: 31-46

April 22 –Mark 6: 30-44

April 29 -Mark 8: 14-21

He Is Risen!
you rise too....

Special Edition of the
Breakfast Bible Study

**7:00 AM on Tuesday, April 10
in the Fellowship Hall**

Come for a special installment of
our monthly Bible study led by
Randy Sheets (with a little help
from Andy Griffith).



PW Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating
Team will meet on April 4 at 9:30 am in the Conference
Room. Circles meet on Wednesday, April 11 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room

#2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor

#3 at 9:30 a. m. in the Parlor

May 9 – Birthday Luncheon and Installation of Offices. Budget Presented

June 13-15 – AL/MS Women's Conference – Briarwood PC – Jackson MS

August 2-5 – Church-wide Gathering, Louisville, MS

The Religious Arts Committee Strikes Again!

The Art and Science of Medicine: the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute

The Religious Arts Committee invites you to join us at 4pm on Thursday, April 19, 2018, for an interesting and inspiring tour of the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute. MCI is an academic-based research facility and has served our area for over 10 years. Many Mobilians are unaware of the cutting edge research occurring "in our own back yard". Susan Crutchfield, BSN, manager of the MCI community outreach, will be our guide. We will learn about cancer control and prevention, clinical trials, and research. After the tour, our group will meet at a local restaurant (TBA) for a casual dinner. We will gather in the lobby of the MCI building at 1660 SpringHill Avenue at 4 pm on April 19. Please reserve your spot by contacting Judy Stout, 401-0811; judydstout@mchsi.com; or Clair Hamlin, 776-3003; riverandbay@gmail.com. Do you need a ride? Just let us know.

Art in the Library. During month of April, the Library Art exhibit features botanical illustrations by Elisa Baldwin.

Downtown Tour Redux-April 4

Is pleased to announce that the downtown tour with Cart Blackwell (cancelled because of weather) is rescheduled for April 8 at 4:00 pm. Meet at the new carnival park (corner of Church and Royal streets). Please contact Bonney Irwin or Judy Stout for reservation.

Statement as of February 2018	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$886,720
Year to date received	148,584
Other receipts	5,216
Total Receipts	\$153,800
Benevolences	8,375
Salaries and services	90,892
Programs	5,781
Office expenses	3,850
General & plant services	30,985
Other	7,557
Total Expenses	\$147,440
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	\$6,360

**Memorials have been received
for the following:**

Norma Calder
Gary Armstrong
Linda Fletcher
John Augustine Peterson

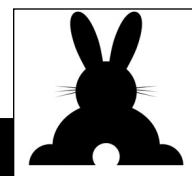
From the following:

Lexie Barnett
Presbyterian Women Circle #3
Sam Strada
Cort & Susan Schlichting
The Quilters
Ruth Fitzgerald
Susan Abrams



“Plan now for the summer of 2019! Mission Trips to Coban, Guatemala!”

Space is filling up ahead of our 2018 trips. 37 people have signed up to be missionaries for a week in this Presbytery-wide service project. There are **only 3 vacancies left to fill for this year**, and a waiting list is available. We have this wonderful opportunity to build side-by-side with our Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Guatemala. This is an ideal trip for all skill levels, even those participating as sponsors that want to help. If you want to be a sponsor and make it possible for another to partner with you to do the work for Christ, contact **Pastor Buz or Don Fry**. We will match you up with a youth or adult that also feels the call to serve.”



Church Calendar -APRIL 2018

2	Church Office Closed
4	PW Coordinating Team – 9:39 a.m.
5	Spirituality and Writing- 2:30 p.m.
10	Breakfast & Bible Study – 7:00 am Committees
12	Christus Lecture
14	Confirmation and Reception
17	Session 6:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
19	Tour of Mitchell Cancer Institute
22	Communion



We Rejoice

We rejoice with Judy and Rick Stout in the birth of a grandson, Thomas Stout, on March 2. Parents are Danielle and Paul Stout; and with Zack and Ashlen Aggen in the birth of a daughter, Adenine Nanette Nicole Aggen (Addie), on March 7.



We Share in Sorrow.

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Linda Fletcher, in her death on February 24 and with Kim Peterson in the death of her father, John Augustine Peterson in Colonial Heights, Virginia.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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April 2018