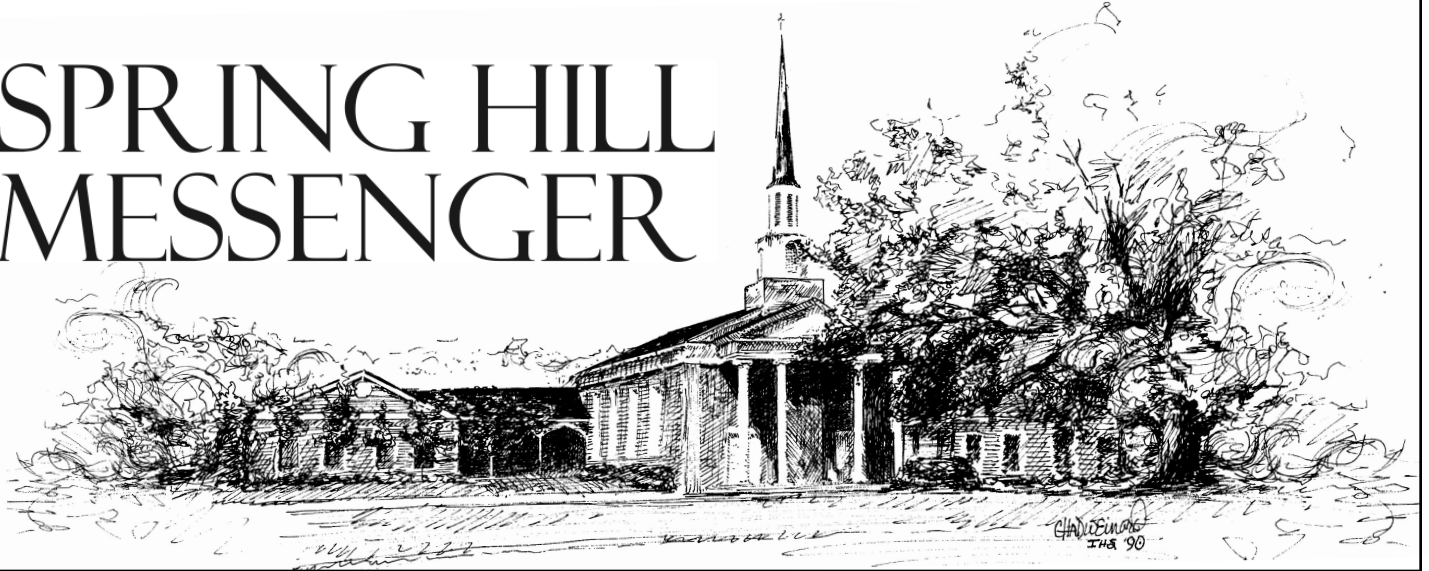


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 81, Number 6, August 2017

MANY BEGINNINGS

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

This summer at SPHC we have been studying the book of Genesis with particular attention on the many stories of beginnings. The foundational origin, stories of Creation, the Garden of Eden, the Fall, and Cain and Abel are reminders of who we are created to be from the start and how we turn from God's intentions. The story of Noah reminds us of the new creation and God's enduring covenant promises. The tales of Abraham and Sarah and their descendants serve to form our religious identity through the memory of God's creating a way where there seemed no way and no hope. Throughout all of these beginnings we have been reminded of the truth that God did not simply create in one isolated action, but that God has been and continues to recreate us over and over and over again, reforming us more and more into the image of Christ.

This month of August brings another exciting new beginning with the start of the school year. Children prepare to begin a new grade. Teachers prepare to welcome new classes. College students head off for new

experiences that will mold them into the people God is calling them to be. As a church with a strong connection to institutions of education, this is an exciting time for us

as well. We will celebrate our **Back to School Sunday on August 13** honoring all our students and teachers (of all ages). Soon our choirs, youth group, Sunday school, confirmation, Bible studies, and so many other programs will return to full swing. Our mission to college students

**"I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH,
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?
I WILL MAKE A WAY
IN THE WILDERNESS
AND RIVERS IN THE DESERT."**

-ISAIAH 43: 19"

through the UKirk South Alabama program will help welcome new faces to campus. Our Big Brother/Big Sister, Backpack for Kids, and Mary B. Austin volunteers will all begin rolling their sleeves up for another wonderful year of service in our many school partnerships. Our Boy Scout troop will return to its activities, and this year we will be hosting a new Girl Scout troop as well (talk to Amy Powell and Sarah McGough for more details about it). On Monday and Tuesday afternoons the sound of beautiful music will return to our hallways as many children from around our community will return to their rehearsals with Mobile Singing Children. All in all, the beginning of the school year is a very full time for the mission and ministry of this learning and welcoming church family.

(Continued...)

(...continued from page 1)

This fall we will also celebrate another new beginning, one that took place centuries ago. 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Those first reformers (like Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin) sought to correct the abuses of the Mediaeval Church by returning to the beginnings of our faith story. They used the witness of scripture and the example of the early church as their authorities in matters of faith and life together. As a fitting way to honor their memory and follow their wisdom, this Fall we will begin a series of worship services and church-wide events entitled, "Back to the Source." This was a rallying cry used by those reformers to remind their churches to turn back to the source of scripture as their guide. So too will we be examining what the Bible teaches about many concepts, doctrines, and vocabulary of the faith that we may take for granted today.

We continue to welcome many visitors and new members who are beginning new chapters of their journey of faith here with our church family. Through the very successful initial phase of our Welcoming the Next Generations capital campaign, we are building a solid foundation to continue to be the kind of Christian community that welcomes people of all ages. With so many new beginnings in our midst, it is important for us to remember that this work is not our own to initiate, but that our acts of service, dedication, faithfulness, and growth are a part of God's new creation coming into being for us to come. This work begins and in ends in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who has ushered the inbreaking of God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." May all our beginnings and endings find their source in the one who is "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Grace and Peace,



Congratulations to our newly-elected officers to the Class of 2020!

Elders: Jo Barton, Mary Alyce Davis, Andy Falls, Allison Hill, Tim Holston, Peter Pearce, Judy Stout

Deacons: Ernest Bulwinkle, Sarah Katherine Clarke, Don Fry, Kristin Mahtani,
Jodi Morvant, Buddy Porter, Butch Tigner

Trustee: Becky Jones

Thank you to all who are willing to serve as Christ's hands and feet.

"Your Final To-Do List" - Second in the Caregiver Series

CAREGIVER SERIES: Three local Presbyterian churches (Spring Hill, Cottage Hill, and Providence) are partnering together to sponsor a series of workshops to address legal, medical, financial, and other issues that complicate matters of aging, caring for a loved one, and planning for the future. This series is open to anyone in the community and is supported through a Mission Grant from the Presbytery of South Alabama. Our second workshop, "**Your Final To-Do List**," will be hosted at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church on **Sunday August 27 at 4:00 PM** in the Bullard Building. We will welcome **Ariana Moore from the Volunteer Lawyers of South Alabama** to speak about matters related to Wills, Living Wills, Probate, and other related topics. We encourage our members of all ages to attend this important event for the sake of your family and loved ones. For more information contact Amanda Dexter at 251-583-4603 or mandapanda61@aol.com.



Dear Friends in Faith,

This July, you didn't see me much because I spent two weeks in Decatur, GA taking the introductory course for my Doctorate of Ministry degree program in Gospel, Culture, and Transformation of the Church. I have been studying with 15 pastors,—7 Jamaicans, 1 Jamaican American, 4 white Americans, 2 Korean American pastors, and 1 Taiwanese American. I was the only white female pastor. To say that the group was diverse was an understatement. It is the most diverse group I have ever been a part of. In this group, you might wonder, what are the commonalities theologically and culturally? How do you define culture and the gospel in such a diverse group? We came from such different backgrounds with different assumptions and views.

A theologian named Kathryn Tanner provides an interesting lens into what unites us culturally and specifically as Christians. She looks at the word culture, and how we have defined it over time. She tries to figure out what defines the Christian culture. We range in beliefs in the Christian faith—there are some who believe women can be leaders, others don't. We disagree how Scripture is interpreted often. Every time you try to say that what makes a Christian is X, there is a person who defies the definition. Think about it, what makes us Presbyterian? What makes us Spring Hill Presbyterian? We all range in our beliefs and opinions. Is there one thing that we can all agree on? Eventually, she says that a culture is not bound by a common agreement but by a common engagement. People in cultures often range in their ideas, in their beliefs, and actions. No two people are alike. What creates a culture is common engagement—relationships, conversation, communion. For Christians, what binds us is Christ, being engaged in the Gospel. And how we do that is through arguing, through discussion, through wrestling with the texts and individual interpretations of them.

For her, the Christian identity hinges on staying open to the direction of the grace of God in Christ Jesus. God is not finished with us. God is at work in our communities, in our churches, in our world. This means that often there is dissonance and disagreement as we

listen to God at work in our church and world. Tanner actually advocates for dissonance and disagreement—that's where God is present she thinks. God is in our wrestling because we are engaged with each other and with God.

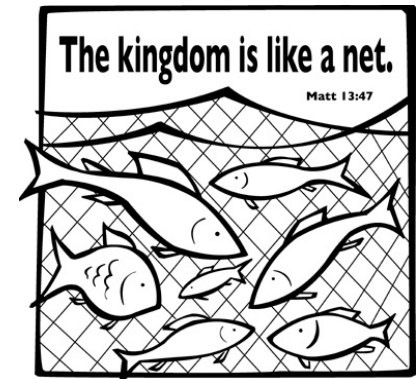
This is a new idea for me. Growing up in the South it wasn't good to argue. I did not like difference and conflict. I wanted everyone to think like me and thought if I argued well enough, people

would agree with me. I think that there are some unshakeable truths about God and Jesus. Yet, if I am so caught up in my idea of who God is, can I see God in my neighbor? Am I open to God at work in my life, in the world shaking me up and changing me? God is the God of all, in all of our uniqueness, in all of our diversity.

I think these ideas have a profound affect on our community. It means that we can be diverse theologically and still be the body of Christ together. It means that we cannot write each other off. God is at work in each and every one of us. It means that even in times of fracture and brokenness, God is at work reforming our minds and our faith, helping us grow in discipleship and communion. For me, that's good news.

This Fall, we are exploring the idea of "Back to the Source"—we will be looking at common words that we use in the church that are in our Scriptures like salvation, tithing, sacrifice, sin and thinking about what these have meant historically and what they mean for us today. Some of these words incite disagreement and discussion, and for us that's good news—it means that our faith is dynamic, that God is with us in our wrestling, in our growing and learning.

Peace,



Anna Fulmer



Music Notes

Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Sing and Play in a New Season!

Our new musical season will begin soon and we are eager to invite all persons to explore how they might get involved in music ministries. Participating in music at our church provides unique opportunities that cannot be duplicated elsewhere, simply because they are rooted not only in the Christian faith, but in the traditions and theology of our own church. You are invited to investigate the opportunities at SHPC in music! Contact Randy Sheets for more information (rsheets@shpc.us), 342-1550 ext 15)

Chancel Choir welcomes new members in its new season, with Wednesday night rehearsals (7:00-8:30), beginning **August 9**, and with our Saturday, August 19 **Christmas in August retreat**, where we begin our Christmas music. Persons who have basic music reading skills, have sung in choirs or played in instrumental groups, or who have studied a musical instrument, will be most comfortable in the group.

Spring Hill Ringers is an auditioned group of advanced youth and adults who practice handbells on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m., beginning after Labor Day. Strong music-reading skills are needed. If you are interested, contact Randy Sheets.

Choirs for Children begin on Sunday afternoon, September 10.

Keep an eye out for more information in the bulletin, at www.shpc.us, and in your mailbox.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS at SHPC It's so much more than Singing!

Choir season is just around the corner. Kick off Sunday will be September 10! Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to participate in the choir program which consists of two choirs: Cherub (ages 3 - 5) and Elementary (grades 1st - 5th). We are blessed to have our wonderful teachers back for another great year of singing, playing instruments and much more. Registration forms will be mailed in August along with specific details. Forms will also be available on tables outside of the sanctuary.

Come and "Make a joyful noise!"

Sound Team Members Needed

You don't see them, but they are there, stationed in the balcony sound booth, running the sanctuary sound system, recording our worship services and special events. Positions are open for new team members, who receive training and alternate weeks. Upperclass high school students and adults who are interested, please contact Randy Sheets at the church.

Notes and Notices

Honoring Ginny Thompson!

It is with deep gratitude for her years of service and sadness in her departure that we announce the retirement of Ginny Thompson on September 1, 2017. Ginny has served Spring Hill Presbyterian Church for 22 years with great dedication, expertise, and love for this church family. She has been a fixture in the office staff and an important part of so many of our lives. There will be a reception honoring her on Sunday, August 27 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. We will be collecting donations for a retirement gift for Ginny from our church. If you would like to contribute toward this gift, please contact Nancy Coleman in the church office or place a check in the offering plate with "Ginny Gift" noted in the memo line. Please join us as we express our appreciation and gratitude to Ginny and wish her happiness and God speed.



Youth Headed to the 'Big Dipper'!

Youth Back to School Pool Party: August 6 11:45 am-5:30 we will be traveling to Jackson, AL to go to Pearce Pool, a huge spring-fed pool with slides, trampolines, climbing walls and more, all on the water after church. The pool is about an hour away, so we will leave church at 11:45 am and return by 5:30 pm. Bring \$15 with you for entrance to the pool and a bagged lunch. We will eat on the road! Please let me know you are coming, so we can arrange transportation! Rising 6-12 grades are invited! This is a great way to get to know everyone! We will have a more formalized kick-off with parents on Sept. 10 at 6 pm where you will get more information about Youth Group and Sunday school.



Children's Ministry News

Sunday, August 20, 11:30-1 pm, Bullard Building Children's Sunday School Teacher Training (lunch provided)—Unable to come? Email Anna at anna@springhillpresbyterian.org

Fundraiser for Central Presbyterian Church Mission

"The Great Escape"

Friday, September 22, 6:00-9:00 PM

This event will include a live auction for trips to Europe, Colorado, and Napa Valley as well as a silent auction of items for gardeners, pet lovers, and front porch aficionados. Proceeds will benefit neighborhood missions of Central Presbyterian Church. Advance tickets are \$25. More information can be found at www.thegreatescapemobile.com or by calling Central Presbyterian Church at 432-0591.

- • • • •
- **Save the Date:**
- **Confirmation Kickoff Retreat—**
- Confirmation is for youth 7-8th grade and older who
- are interested in exploring their faith and learning what
- it means to be Presbyterian. Parents and Youth who are
- interested are required to attend after church
- **August 13 from 11:30-2:30 pm.**
- Lunch will be provided.
-
- **Save the Date:**
- **Rally Day Kick-Off**
- September 10, 9 am in the Bullard Building!
- • • • •





CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, July 30 11:30 a.m. in the Bullard Building.

Please bring your favorite side dish. Fried chicken and desserts will be provided. Come join us - all are welcome!

Remembered in Love

Memorials have been received for the following:

- Mary Beth Culp
- Mary Gutierrez
- Joe Croom

From the following:

- Hardy & Sandra Vise
- Janie Sims
- Frank & Karen Ehman
- Norman & Nancy McCrummen
- Dwight & Loretta Baker
- E.E. Bentley Insulation Staff
- Steve & July Shaw
- Rennie Sharp
- Helen Wells
- Greta & Andy Sharp
- AIC Group, L.P.
- Peter Pearce
- Helen Croom
- Jimmy Glenn, Cheryl Croom & Boys
- Jake & Kerri Culotta
- Louis & Jane Williams
- Jean, Russell & Tosh Persons
- Helen Croom
- Bob & Diana Hagler



Calendar for August

August 2017	
1	Committees
6	Communion
11	Pre-school Open House
13	Confirmation Kick-Off, 11:30 - 2:30
15	Presbytery Meeting at Bay Minette
19	Choir Retreat.
21	Deadline for September Newsletter
22	Session – 6:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
25-26	Officer Training Retreat
27	Caregiver Series



We Rejoice.

We rejoice with Patrick & Megan O'Keefe in the birth of a son Connor Patrick, on July 7.

We rejoice with Charles & Rita Hall in the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 23 with family in California preceding a trip to Hawaii.



We Share in Sorrow.

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Mary Gutierrez in her death on June 3 and with the family of Joe Croom in his death on June 23.

Sunday School News-

Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

ADULT : The Protestant Reformation began a religious, political, and cultural upheaval that splintered Catholic Europe in the 16th century and paved the way for our modern era. In September and October, our church will be celebrating the anniversary of the Reformation in two ways: first, as a part of our sermon series during worship, and second, as a part of the Current Issues Sunday School Class. The Sunday School Class will focus on reformers John Calvin and Martin Luther – their lives and the times in which they lived, and their influence on our church structure and theology.



MARTIN LUTHER
1483-1546



JOHN CALVIN
1509-1564

CHILDREN: All parents want their children to be successful, happy, and able to handle life's stresses. This September and October, a special "bonus series" will focus on three topics of special interest to parents, grandparents, and those who care about all of our children and youth. The topics are Kindness and Bullying, Technology and Social Media, and Discipline in an Encouraging Way. How does faith intersect with all of these important current issues? Join us for enlightening conversation and sharing of our experiences and perspectives.

Welcome! New Members

SUSAN ABRAMS was twenty-two months old when her parents, **Bill and Edith Abrams**, joined Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in 1955. She was confirmed in our church and was an active member until she went off to college at LSU where she earned three degrees in Education. She taught in Louisiana for eleven years and then moved to Sheffield, Massachusetts to work with autistic children. She later became a life coach and an Emotional Freedom Techniques practitioner. After 28 years in Massachusetts she came home, literally, to the house in which she grew up. Susan enjoys gardening and caring for the environment. She is a member of the Mobile Botanical Gardens, the Plant Services Committee, the Quilters and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Susan says that her move back to Mobile has been joyful and that she has quickly made connections because of the church. She is grateful to renew her membership at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

MACK AND BETTY GRAHAM joined our church on June 4. Mack is a retired real estate broker who owned his own company, and Betty retired from the Mobile School System as the Supervisor of Adult and Community Education. They have two daughters, **Ashley Brown (Chris) in Mobile, and Leslie Cheatham (Al) in Decatur, Alabama**. Two of their grandchildren attend Auburn and two are in high school. Both Mack and Betty have always been active in the Mobile community and continue their volunteer work. Betty is an avid reader who enjoys gardening, and Mack remains active with the Mobile Big Game Fishing Club, and follows SEC sports, especially Alabama football. Their love of travel continues to be an important part of their lives.

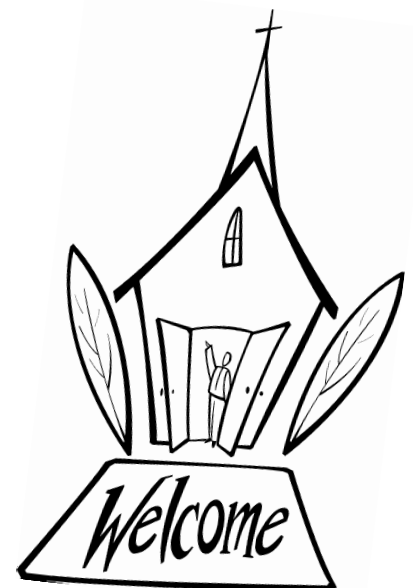
More

JO HARRISON and her late husband, **Bill**, moved to Mobile from Birmingham in 1992 to be near their daughter **Bonney Irwin** and her family. They bought the home where Jo now lives in The Gates Subdivision and immediately became involved with Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Bill served as a Deacon and an Elder and was active with the yeomen and Habitat for Humanity through the church. Jo was active in Circle and they both attended regularly. They changed to Ashland Place United Methodist for a number of years. When Bill died in 2012, Jo began to visit again with Bonney and decided to make her membership official in April of this year. Jo enjoys her bridge groups, reading and gardening.

FRANK AND KENDALL HURLEY have three children. Their daughters, **Rachel (22) and Frances (19)** are both students at Troy University. Rachel will graduate in December with a degree in Human Services and Frances will be a sophomore in the business school. **Patrick (15)** will be a sophomore at Davidson High School where he is in the IB program and plays the trumpet in the band. Frank works at Mobile Asphalt Company and Kendall teaches fifth grade at Mary B. Austin. Frank likes to fish and Kendall is a runner. Both like to garden in their spare time.

DANIEL AND SARA MCGOUGH met in the Auburn University Marching Band their freshman year. Daniel is a native of Mobile and Sara spent most of her childhood in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. After both earned master's degrees, they married and moved to Asheville, North Carolina in the summer of 2005. In Asheville, they enjoyed hiking, exploring waterfalls, and eating the local cuisine. Their first daughter, **Sydney** was born in the fall of 2010 and **Lucy** joined the family in the summer of 2014. After many wonderful years in Asheville and with heavy hearts, they decide to move closer to family and relocated to Mobile in the summer of 2016. They reside in the Spring Hill area. Daniel continues his work as a geotechnical engineer with Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. and Sara, after a stint as a stay-at-home-mom, is the Children's Librarian at the West Regional Library. The last year has been a whirlwind for the McGough family as they continue to reconnect with the Gulf Coast and old friends all while starting new jobs and settling into a new home. Daniel and Sara spend as much time as possible with their girls and family. When life settles down just a bit after such a busy year, they hope to explore state parks, eat at more of the local restaurants, do some home improvements, and enjoy the arts and culture of the area. They are grateful to have found a church so quickly during this time of transition.

MATTHEW AND AMY PATTERSON have known each other since childhood and have been married for 15 years. They have two children. **Sophia** is seven years old and will be in the second grade at Mary B. Austin. She loves to swim, pick fruit in the garden, read books and cook (her French toast is the best!). **Leo** will be five in August and attends preschool at Weinacker's Montessori on Hillcrest. He loves to play in the sand box, chase chickens and encourage Mama to make breakfast from scratch - biscuits are his favorite. Matthew, an Assistant Professor in the Art Department at the University of South Alabama, teaches glass blowing. Time permitting, he enjoys gardening and reading. Amy studies writing, enjoys cooking with the kids and bird watching. Spending time together as a family is their favorite.



Welcoming the Next Generation

Capital Campaign Update:

INITIAL RESPONSE TO OUR “WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATIONS” CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN WONDERFUL! Since May 14th when we held our first gathering of pledges, we have received gifts and commitments totaling \$650,000 over the next five years towards our \$750,000 campaign goal. As determined by our Capital Needs committee, this \$750,000 campaign will fund improvements and repairs to our campus that will help us continue to be a strong and vibrant house of worship – without passing along a burden of debt to the next generations. Please accept our enthusiastic thanks to all who have contributed to this terrific start with your pledges, prayers and positive attitudes! However, the finish line still beckons before us.

Summer can be a hectic time in many families - with travel, shifting schedules and nursing a crop of great tomatoes demanding much of our attention. So, if you haven't had the time or opportunity to consider adding your pledge or gift to our congregational efforts, please find a moment soon to fill out a blue pledge card and make a contribution. We need you to get us to that finish line, and maybe beyond. Your thoughtful gift will be a blessing for generations to come, in grateful response to our call to share the gospel and offer Christian hope and hospitality to both this generation and the next.

Thank you in advance for your time and your support.

Yours in Christ,

Harvie Jordan, for the Capital Campaign

As we celebrate our rich heritage as a family of faith, we give thanks for those who have guided us on the journey and whose memories still shape us today. Among the many pledges already received for our WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION Capital Campaign, some were made in honor of or in memory of someone dear to them. We are listing those here, and will continue to share more as the capital campaign progresses. Pledges made in memory and/or honor of individuals are:

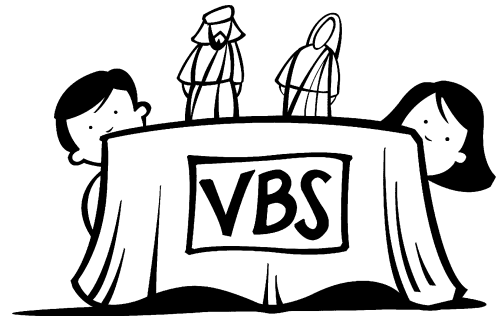
Donor	In Memory of	In Honor of
Susan Abrams	Edith & Bill Abrams	
Cindy Campbell	Max & Priscilla McGill	
Janet Clarke	Martha W. Draime	
Bronte Dixon		Bron Dixon
Ruth Fitzgerald	Brown Wallace	
Patsy & Gaillard Hamilton	John Gaillard Hamilton III	
Jo Harrison	Bill Harrison	
Marcy Harris	Bill Harris	
Billy Harris	Dad (Bill Harris)	Mom (Marcy Harris)
Mit & Charlotte Kopf	Mary Lou Kopf	
		More next page...

Donor	In Memory of	In Honor of
Charles & Linda Langston	Louise Robinson	
John & Rita Langus	Ben Cochran & Dorothy Langus	
Molly & Alex Lankford	Their Parents	
Ann Magee	Lost Loved Ones	
Mary Katherine & Peter Martin		Pete & Mary Anne Martin
Kathryn Marrero	Edwardo Marrero/Philippa Drey	
Ernestine McElroy	James B. McElroy	
Fran Moor		Bron Dixon
Billy & Sue McLean	Nolan & Dorothy McLean	
Mr. & Mrs. O.M. Otts III		
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Oveson	William Harris, Sr.	
Peter Pearce	Toni Pearce	
Marianna Parker	Burns & Sammie Moore	
Fay Phillips	Mike Phillips	
Luann Rice	George & Jane Moser	
Sam Strada	Judy Strada	
Bob & Leslie Sweeney	Stony & Virginia	
Dr. Burt Taylor	Burt F. Taylor III	
Susan Tomlinson	Mary & Jim Richardson	
Loretta Turner	Yvonne	
Calvin Weaver	Hosea, Corine & James Weaver	
Buz & Ryann Wilcoxon		Vernon & Sallie Hunter
Louis & Jane Williams	Their Parents	

If you have not yet made a pledge to our campaign you can do so by placing blue pledge cards in the offering plate, mailing them to the church, emailing the church accountant, Nancy Coleman (nancy@springhillpresbyterian.org), or submitting a pledge online through the church website. If you have made a pledge in honor/memory of someone and it does not appear on this list, please contact the church office so that we can ensure our records are correct.

VBS Kids Helped in a Big Way!

Back Pack for Kids has had a head start on school this fall. During Vacation Bible School, the children had the opportunity to learn about the program. They helped pack bags, and Vera Lynn Sheets taught the children the importance of this mission. Thank you to all of the parents that contributed food. The school year will start off great this fall with the 60 bags the children helped put together.



Statement as of June 2016	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$882,285
Year to date received	422,594
Other receipts	21,881
Total Receipts	\$444,475
Benevolences	26,059
Salaries and services	280,163
Programs	18,458
Office expenses	13,973
General & plant services	93,809
Other	16,902
Total Expenses	\$\$\$449,364
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$4,889

LECTIONARY FOR
THE LORD'S DAY
AUGUST 2017

6 - Genesis 16 & 17
(selected verses)

13 -Genesis 22: 1-19

20 - Genesis 28: 10-22

27 - Genesis 45: 1-15



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AUGUST