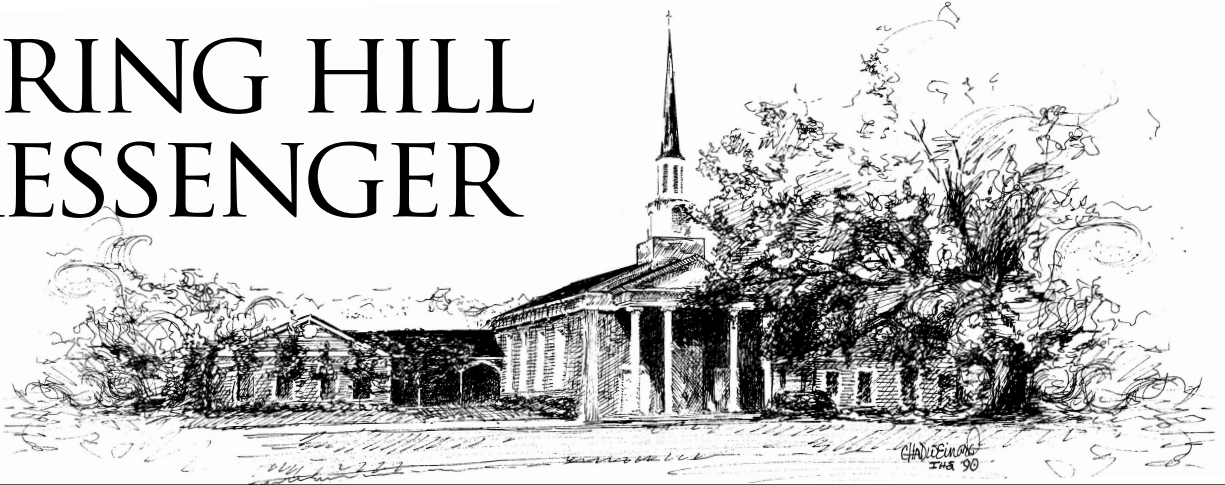


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

August, 2019

“HEIRS OF CITIES WE DID NOT BUILD”

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

In this 75th anniversary year, we've talked an awful lot about the past. We've had Sunday School classes, a trolley pilgrimage, and a special anniversary worship service all celebrating the story of our SHPC family. We're in the midst of a summer worship series and Faith & the Arts Sunday School series that delve into the larger history of the extended Christian family throughout the ages. Even just talking in the hallways or parking lots between events, it has seemed to me that our conversations have been a little bit more rooted in the past these last few months than they typically are. We've got "history on the brain." And that's a good thing, for ultimately, our Christian faith is rooted in the history of God's love, the story of Christ's redemptive actions for us, the past events of the Holy Spirit guiding us through the years into the new reality of God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

My hope is that all this talk of the past isn't just an intellectual exercise, but that it will bear fruit in our lives (both individually and as a community). I'm hopeful that our holy memory will engender in us a profound spirit of gratitude for all we have inherited, and that such gratitude will inspire us to deep generosity to share these gifts with generations yet to come.

It reminds me of the story of the Hebrews who were wandering in the wilderness, getting closer and closer to the Promised Land. In his farewell sermon in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminded the people of the need to be grateful for the gifts they were soon to inherit, gifts that they had not worked for themselves but were receiving from God. He said:

"When the Lord your God has brought you into the land that he swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, houses filled with all sorts of goods that you did not fill, hewn cisterns that you did not hew, vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you have eaten your fill, take care that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

-Deuteronomy 6:10-12

I am keenly aware of the truth that my family and I have been welcomed into a church that we did not form. Today's congregation at SHPC is worshiping in a sanctuary that we did not build, finding shade under trees that we did not plant, playing games in a gym that we did not design, learning the truths of our faith that we did not write or create, serving in mission efforts that were here long before we were. We are the heirs of a mighty strong inheritance of faith and discipleship. In gratitude for the gifts we have received, we are called, challenged, even commanded to pass this faithful heritage on to those who will follow after. We are called today to give generously, to serve selflessly, to build up the church bountifully that we may leave this earth, this community, this congregation better than we found it. So, with "history on the brain" my hope is that we will also have plenty of "generosity on the heart" as we continue our celebration.

Grace and Peace,

Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

Mark Your Calendars – September 8th = Rally Day!

You won't want to miss three big events happening on Sunday, September 8th! First, beginning in the sanctuary, is our annual **Rally Day** to introduce all the **Sunday School** options for the fall semester – for children, youth, and adults. Afterwards, classes will dismiss to various locations for fellowship and refreshments. Then, during worship, we will have our **Kirkin of the Tartans**, to be topped off after worship with a **fish fry** for all. Come hungry for food, fellowship, information, and celebration!

You are invited to attend "Sweet Home Soiree"

Presbyterian Home for Children Fundraiser, Thursday August 15th, 5:30 p.m., The Club, Homewood, AL: You are invited to attend "Sweet Home Soiree", a special evening which includes a dinner with live and silent auctions. Proceeds from the soiree will benefit Ascension Leadership Academy, a ministry of Presbyterian Home for Children. Several members of Spring Hill will be attending. Transportation and lodging provided. The soiree cost is \$125 per person. If you would like to attend the soiree or be a sponsor, contact Ted Autterson at 251-510-5184 or ted.autterson@gmail.com.

CHUCH CALENDAR: AUGUST 2019	
1	Writing and Spirituality
3	Back Pack For Kids
3-4	High School Retreat
6	Committees
7	Congregational Care
9-10	Mobile Singing Children's Workshop
11	Back to School Sunday (Popsicles after worship)
13	Breakfast Bible Study– 8:00 am Committees
17	Choir Retreat Yeoman Workday
18	Communion
19	Deadline for September Newsletter – 9:00 am
20	Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian, Foley Session 6:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
23-24	New Officer Retreat
27	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:00 am

Observed with Joy by Dale Hair

If Its a Party, Presbyterians will be there!

"If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right" and WOW! was it done right! SHPC celebrated with a fabulous 75th birthday party on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Jo Barton, assisted by members of her special Birthday Committee, organized and executed a flawless evening's program beginning with an inspired communion church service led by senior pastor, Buz Wilcoxon. The service included 4 new hymns created especially for the occasion by choir members Susan Schlichting, Harvie Jordan, Wanda Lawrence, and Buz. Former church family members were remembered with the Benediction written by Rev. Sarah Jordan & a musical Response arranged by our past long time organist, Steven Newberry.

Afterwards was our party! Beginning with a pot luck supper boasting an endless choice of salads, vegetables, and fruit contributed by congregants and a gifting from the church of fried chicken, ice cream & birthday cake. We sang Happy Birthday and the children carried off the balloons. Our grateful thanks go to Jo and her committee members who helped; Ann Magee, Ginny Barton Sprinkle, Leslie Sweeney, Judy Falls, Susan Schlichting, Margaret Jordan and Molly Wagner and who, through thought and action, highlighted our commemoration of the past, present, and future of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

Welcome Prism United

At its May meeting our church Session unanimously voted to approve renting vacant office space on the second floor of the Bullard Building to a local charitable organization called Prism United. This organization serves at risk youth who are LGBTQ, a population that is statistically much more likely to suffer from mental health issues, homelessness, bullying, school truancy, economic insecurity, and a host of other issues. Prism United is not a political group or a religious group, but a statistically-driven, clinically-based peer support group for teens that focuses on psychological, socio-economic, and academic health. Their board is made up of local leaders in our Mobile community, including our own Margaret Jordan (who will serve as our liaison with the organization). By entering into this rental agreement we are able to partner with an organization who's mission to young people connects with our church's expressed mission of "meeting basic needs for children in our local community." If you see the directors of Prism United going to and from work in their new office space, please welcome them on behalf of the SHPC family of faith.

Save The Date

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
Cordially invites you to attend its

Great Cloud of Witnesses 75th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

SATURDAY

October 5, 2019, 6:30 pm

Homecoming Gala

Strada Patient Care Center
1601 Center Street
Mobile, AL 36604

\$37.50 per person / \$75 per couple

Music, Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Beer/Wine

Tickets will be sold in September

SUNDAY

October 6, 2019 10:30 am

Homecoming Worship Service

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608



Throughout 2019, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a congregation. During the summer, we will mark this milestone through a series of worship services drawn from the life of the Christian community in different eras. Each service in the **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE AGES** series will include prayers, liturgy, hymns, and preaching themes based upon a particular time period in Christian history. As we worship, the witness and wisdom of the community of saints in ages past will guide us. Also, each week the scripture lesson and sermon will be based on a different figure from the Old Testament who serve as part of our "great cloud of witnesses."

August 4 – The German Confessing Church (Josiah)

August 11 – The South African Resistance (Daniel)

August 18 – The Southern Presbyterian Church (Esther)

August 25 – The Reunited Presbyterian Church(USA) (Ezra)

Join us each Sunday at 10:30 AM in our sanctuary for these worship services. Our Faith & the Arts Sunday School series (see schedule below) meets at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

2019 Summer Sunday School Series:

Exploring the intersection of Faith, the Arts, and Science

Gather together each Sunday morning with your church family to hear a wonderful slate of well-loved and intriguing speakers from our congregation and our community! Each presentation will occur at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Don't let your brain go on Summer Vacation!

8/4	<i>Dangerous Music: Reflections on Music in Presbyterian Worship</i>	<i>Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, SHPC</i>
8/11	<i>Carnival in Mobile: The Art, Industry, Fun, and Family of It</i>	<i>Cart Blackwell, Director, Mobile Carnival Museum</i>
8/18	<i>The Great Cloud of Witnesses: Standing on the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before</i>	<i>Spirituality & Writing Group, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church</i>
8/25	<i>Personal Journeys of Faith at SHPC</i>	<i>An Inter-generational Panel Discussion</i>

Seeking Classroom Volunteers for Mary B. Austin Elementary

Don't think YOU are a candidate? Think again! An important part of our overall Partners in Education program is the assistance we provide to the kindergarten and first grade classroom teachers, or to the librarian. Even if you are only able to offer assistance ONE day a month, the overall impact is valuable. Classroom volunteers and readers provided a total of 50 hours of service just for the 2019 spring semester! Big Brother/Big Sister volunteers provided an additional 36 hours of service – for an amazing total of 86 hours of service in ONE semester!

Please consider signing up on the "I'm Interested" Sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for a trial run, or the "Count Me In!" sheet if you know you will volunteer. If this is a new experience for you, and you would like an "escort" to take you to the school, show you how to sign-in, and take you to the classroom, please indicate this. Materials and instructions for getting started will be provided. As always, a calendar of dates/times when volunteers are requested will be posted in the hallway. YOU get to choose when it is convenient! Be a Super Hero to a teacher who needs some assistance and a child who needs a boost!



Memorials have been received for the following:

Gina Johnson
Merle Weldon
Joe Dan Dunnam
Ann Jung
Clifton Martin
Norman Walton

From the following:

Dick and Lila Pennington
Lewis and Barkley Shreve
J A Marks
Vernon and Sallie Hunter
Nicholas Vrakelos
Cort and Susan Schlichting
Donna J Smith
Marcy Harris
Nancy Coffin
Jo Anne & Michael Dunnam
Nancy and Jim Adams
Chris and Ashley Brown
Patricia and Danner Frazer
T Scott Johnson
Peg Heyman
Marion Bolks
Betty and Dick Allen
Linda Dyken
Elizabeth and Ken Brown
Murray and Anne Meador

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of



We Share
in Sorrow.

Gina Johnson in her death on June 11; with the Walton family in the death of Merle Wharton Weldon, on June 22; with Al and Virginia Martin in the death of their son, Clifton, on June 27 in Missouri and Buz's grandmother, Helen Wilcoxon Williamson in Texarkana TX on July 16.

Statement as of June, 2019

Total Budgeted Revenue	\$ 888,792
Year-to-date Received	\$ 421,785
Other Receipts	\$ 16,430
Total Receipts	\$438,215
Benevolences	\$ 35,922
Salaries and Services	\$ 264,286
Programs	\$ 13,384
Office Expenses	\$ 17,368
General and Plant Services	\$ 97,264
Other	\$ 17,396
Total Expenses	\$445,620
Excess Receipts over Expenses (Deficit)	\$ (7,405)

SAVE THE DATE!

AUGUST 3 - 4 High School Retreat

Children's ministry news

Children's Sunday school classes and Children's Church will continue with our summer pattern for the month of August.. We will hear stories about our Bible superhero for the week, followed by an activity or craft.

Our superheroes for August are David, Daniel, Esther and Jeremiah.

Please remember our children's Sunday school class meets in the children's church room for the summer.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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Mobile, AL

August 11 is Back-to-School Sunday!



AUGUST 2019