



SPRING HILL MESSENGER August 2023

Para-social Relationships

Recently I was driving to the church and listening to the radio. A story was on that contained the term “para-social relationships.” The author said it is now recognized as a social phenomenon. It is relationships that occur through social media. I know people who have established, what I call for the sake of distinction, real relationships through social media. A “real” relationship is one in which people are face to face, in the same room. A relationship where people can physically touch each other. I know a few people who have met their spouse on social media. But that is not what para-social relationships are.

As I understand it, para-social relationships begin and end on social media. On a historical timeline, these began in chatrooms. Now they exist on Face Book or other platforms. I wonder if there is a connection between para-social relationships and church members whose only connection with church is through on-screen worship? I am very thankful for the technology that allows us to have meetings on Zoom and provide worship online for members and others who are unable to join us in person in the sanctuary. But I do not want the online connection to be the end of the relationship.

This congregation has a vital ministry of visiting our homebound members. We take communion to homebound members. We mail cards as reminders that people are missed and remembered. We send birthday cards. Call me old fashioned. I believe there is no substitute for personal contact. I believe relationships are essential to spreading God’s love. We see this in so many of the Bible stories. Remember the times Jesus heals someone with a touch. The message in those stories is not that there was “magic” in his touch, but that by touching those persons Jesus welcomed them back into the community. Whatever the malady was that had separated them from the community, now Jesus welcomed them back. The relationship was restored.

The next time you are in worship and are looking around at the congregation, think about those folks you don’t see. Think about the ones you have not seen since before the pandemic. Don’t stop there. If there is time before the service starts, call them then. Standing in the sanctuary, take out your phone to call that person. Say, “Hey. I’m at church and I missed you. I wanted you to know that I’m thinking about you.” My favorite billboard near a church read, “Please come back. We miss you.”

Peace.
Cary



Dear SHPC Friends,

This summer has been full and fun with youth trips, Vacation Bible School, the Alabama-Mississippi Presbyterian Women's Conference, and more! I have been amazed by our incredible church members who tirelessly traveled with youth on trips; made snacks, played games, told stories, and sung with our children at VBS; led in worship on Spring Hill Sunday; welcomed women from across Alabama and Mississippi for the AL/MS PW Conference; and more!

August is another full and fun time in the life of the church. The **Faith and the Arts Summer Series resumes July 30** at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall and will continue every Sunday in August. August 11-13 twenty women will be traveling to Montreat, NC for the **Montreat Women's Conference**. **August 20 is Back to School Sunday** where we will be praying for our students, teachers, and families. We will also kick-off Children's Church for children age 3-1st grade. **August 27 is Kirkin O' the Tartans**. **September 10 will be Rally Day**.

As we set our sights on the beginning of school and fall patterns, I hope you will begin to set an intention for faith practices. As fall sports practices and games, homework, and school pick back up, what are spiritual practices that help ground you in your relationship with God and help you throughout your day? Praying, reading scripture, walking, journaling, drawing, and singing are all practices that with regularity can strengthen our spiritual muscles. For many of our youth, listening and playing music are practices that draw them closer to God and refocus their hearts and minds. This year during youth group, we will be exploring the intersection of music and faith. Each week one of our youth will share a song that has been important in their faith. We will invite youth alumni and adults to share their own faith and music. We will create music together. We will study the Psalms and explore music in Scripture. This fall, I hope you will pay attention to what makes your heart sing, what practices ground you and help your grow closer to God. Share those with someone else—you never know how it might fortify another.

If you are looking for a brief devotional each morning, one resource I suggest is d365.org. It is created and written by pastors, teachers, and theologians from the PCUSA, Episcopal, and Cooperative Baptist denominations and are wonderful for children, youth, and adults. Each day they have five pieces of their devotion: pause, listen (read scripture), think, pray, and go. Spiritual practices do not have to be large—God uses small acts, tiny as a mustard seed to bring about incredible change.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

Recycle Stamps

Cancelled stamps — such seemingly little things of no value after their work is done in providing transport via the post office from point A to point B. Sometimes the distance is short and takes only a day or two and sometimes the travel time is much longer. After arrival, the stamp's job is done. BUT, let's give that little stamp a 2nd chance and YOU can do it.



Cut or tear out the stamp leaving a minimal ¼ inch border & place the stamp(s) in a labelled box in the Mission Room. All affixed stamps of any monetary level including those marked as pre-sorted or from non-profit organizations are usable as well as foreign stamps of any denomination.

I collect the stamps, trim them to size and send them to a group in Fort Myers, FL, that further prepares them for sale to stamp brokers in Asia. The money garnered from the sales is forwarded to a mission group in Argentina which prepares and publishes Sunday School materials for Protestant teachings in South and Central America. Some of the printed materials are especially directed to street children who lack direction and certainly the teachings of community churches.

This stamp collection for the missionary program started in 1971, and in 2018, 47 years later, monies attained and sent forward exceeded the ONE MILLION mark. The latest information that I have is that from January to April, of this year only, over \$8 thousand dollars has been earned. Stamps are sold in one-pound batches. Think how many stamps are combined to reach a one-pound quantity. This collection program continues in churches all over the USA; we have been a part of it for about 8 years.

So, tear off your stamps and drop them in the marked box and let's help get to the next one million mark.

Janie Sims

KIRKIN' o' THE TARTANS

AUGUST 27

Join us for Worship on Sunday, August 27 at 10:30 AM for our **Kirkin' o' the Tartans Worship Service**. In recognition of the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church, our congregation practices this ceremony in knowledge that God has gathered different families, ethnicities, and nations into one family, the Church of Jesus Christ. If you have a special family tartan, you are invited to wear it to worship that Sunday. If you would like to carry one of the tartan banners, please call the church office at 251-342-1550 or e-mail sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org.

CAN YOU HELP CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR SANCTUARY BLOOM:?



Flowers are an important part of every Sunday Service. Currently, there exists a need for flower donations. Each week we need members to contribute between \$50.00 to \$75.00 in memory or in honor of a loved one. We want to keep fresh flowers displayed for all to celebrate the goodness that God provides in our lives. If you would consider donating, please contact Ann Magee 251-232-2646 or email: cabmagee861@gmail.com.

Ann Magee

Youth and Children

Youth Fall Retreat, Aug. 5: Save the date for our day-long fall youth retreat Saturday, August 5. Confirmants will meet at the church at 9:00 am to kick-off their confirmation experience. Everyone else will come at 10:00 am. We will swim at the river (bring a swimsuit), play games, do a service project, and more! Parents can pick up their youth at church at 5:00 pm. **Sign up here!**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCX5SI9-gOsiOpACob3I81L-S7CWUMoml3kDm-PI58u8V0VQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Back to School Sunday: August 20 We will be praying for our teachers, students, and families as our children start back to school. Come to worship to receive a backpack tag for your backpacks or purses. We will also begin Children's Church this Sunday for our children ages 3 -1st grade.

Children's Church Kick-off, Sunday, August 20: Children's Church is for children ages 3 -1st grade. Our volunteers will go through a training Sunday morning August 20 at 9:30 am, then in worship Children's Church will begin again after a three-year hiatus! Our young children will stay in worship through the Children's Message and then will walk over to the Bullard Building with two volunteers to hear a story and engage in learning centers. Parents, included in the Children's Bulletins will be a nametag for your child. We ask each week that you fill out the information on these tags, so that volunteers can get in touch with you in case of an emergency. This fall, our children will be hearing Old Testament stories including the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, Isaac, Moses, and David.

Children's Sunday School and Children's Church Teacher Training, Sunday, August 20, 9:00 -10:00 am, Bullard Building, Children's Sunday School teachers will gather first at 9:00 am then will be joined at 9:30 with our Children's Church volunteers in the Bullard Building. Unable to come? Email Susan at susan48tomlinson@gmail.com, so you can plan an alternative time to get trained.

Save the Dates

Rally Day! September 10
@ 9:00 am In the
Bullard Building

Back to School Sunday
August 20

CHILDREN'S CHURCH
KICKOFF SUNDAY
AUGUST 20

Sunday School and
Teacher Training Au-
gust 20 @ 9:00 am

A NEW YOUTH SINGERS & CHILDREN'S CHOIR SEASON BEGINS SOON
Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. --- SEPTEMBER 10



MEMORIALS

**Don Bigler
Ransome Sheets**

**Bernice Riedeburg
Cort Schlichting**

Donated by:

*Tad & Carolyn Wikle
Ashley Stonaker
Mike & Mary Garrity
Sara Long
Linda Bigler
Susan Schlichting
The Vogtner & Barresi Family*

*Stephen Reams
Sandra & Ashley Hudson
Jerry & Lynn Hennig
Mary Lena Harper
Sherry Coats
Steve & Celia Ledbetter*

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Kaye Bradshaw, Janet Clarke, Jamie Crawford, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Rhen Druhan, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Sheryne Massa Glicksman, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Bill Harris, Andrea Wiik Hinton, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, Burton Hoit, Bill Layfield, Steve Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Lynn Martin, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Janie Sims, Margie Spaulding, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Whorton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with the family of Bernice Riedeburg, mother of Alice Vogtner on her death on June 15, 2023.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with the family of Donald Gene Bigler, husband of Linda on his death on June 16, 2023.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY OF the congregation are with Judy Stout on the death of her mother Genevieve Pollard on July 15, 2023.

Statement as of June 30, 2023

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 765,766
Year-to-date Received	\$ 411,708
Other Receipts	\$ 24,883
Total Receipts	\$ 436,591
Benevolences	\$ 29,589
Salaries and Services	\$ 232,777
Programs	\$ 13,117
Office Expenses	
General and Plant Services	\$ 138,438
Other	\$ 12,430
Total Expenses	\$ 440,445
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ (3,854)



The Chancel Choir Begins a New Season-

Welcome to New Members



Schedule of Chancel Choir Launch activities

Sunday, August 20--- We are back in the choir seats for worship.

Wednesday, August 23, 7:00 p.m.--- **Rehearsals resume**

Saturday morning, August 26--- **Choir Retreat** at the church

Food, Fellowship, Worship, Rehearsal of Christmas music and more

If you love to sing, consider joining. We not only enjoy singing together, but we enjoy great fellowship, often including food, which is known as some of the best of any group in the church!

Music reading ability, the ability to sing harmony parts, and experience in choir, concert band, or study of a musical instrument is helpful.

For more information, or to join, contact Randy Sheets at the church. 251-342-1550 ext 15;
rsheets@shpc.us.

Concert—Biblical Drama

A Journey Through the History of the Oratorio

Sunday, August 6, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

(and livestreamed on the church YouTube channel)

All are welcome

The Performers:

Our own Dr. Patrick Jacobs

Dr. Lori Guy - University of Mobile voice faculty

Dr. Randy Sheets - piano and organ

The Music:

Singing of Biblical voices such as Moses, Elijah, and various angels.

Music of great variety, from large-scale works drawn from Biblical stories, such as

Fiery, flaming, raging music

Consoling voice of an Angel encouraging Elijah, in his deep despair, to trust in God

Celebrating the glories of God's creation, with splendors of the sky, the darting of fish and the heavy trod of huge beasts.

Arias from Handel's *Messiah*, *Joshua*, and *Hercules*; Bach's Christmas Oratorio; Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *Creation*



February 2023, SHPC became a certified **Earth Care Congregation**. Below is the *Earth Care Pledge* the Session signed on behalf of our congregation. If you have ideas towards honoring this pledge (a minor tweak or major project), you can contact a member of the *Creation Care Team* or there is a mailbox in the church mailroom for written suggestions. The *Creation Care Team* is a subcommittee under Facilities Committee. Current team members are Susan Abrams, Wes Baldwin, and Linda Madsen. Contact any member or email susan@susanabrams.net if you would like to join this subcommittee.

EARTH CARE PLEDGE (PART OF THE EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS PROGRAM)

The Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in consultation with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination, developed a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." The resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010. Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth Care Pledge affirmed by their session and signed by the clerk.

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

2023 Faith AND THE Arts

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

JULY
30

Thomas McGehee
BELLINGRATH GARDENS

AUGUST
6

**Lori Guy, Patrick Jacobs,
& Randy Sheets**
BIBLICAL DRAMA: A MUSICAL
JOURNEY THROUGH THE
HISTORY OF ORATORIO

AUGUST
13

Dr. John Valentine
DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

AUGUST
20

Rachel Wright
ARTIST & INSTRUCTOR

AUGUST
27

Jon Carfagno
MOBILE MUSEUM
OF ART

Sunday School is 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The concert on Aug 6th will be held in the Sanctuary. Open gym time will be available for children 12 and under during the series for parents to attend.



10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608



251-342-1550
<https://shpc.us>

Every now and then someone says that we, the Spring Hill church, should make better use of our campus and buildings. I understand that to mean that we should allow outside groups to use our space during the week. From a practical perspective, churches are usually an inefficient use of real estate. Most of the facilities are used a few times a week; often only on Sundays. Last month this issue came up in a staff meeting. The list below was created by auditing the church calendar from the past twelve months. Some of these groups are weekly, some monthly and some occasionally. This page can go in your files under the heading "FYI," or "FMI," For My Information.

Peace.

Cary

Outside Groups that meet at SHPC

AA
Al-Anon
Art for All
Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO)
Blue Chips Investments
Girl Scouts
Boy Scouts
Girls Basketball Team
2 Book Clubs
Mobile's Singing Children (MSC)
TAI CHI
Goodwill Easter Seals Day Care
Spring Hill Day School
Mary B. Austin Elementary School
American Guild of Organists (AGO)
Gates Homeowner's Association
Mobile's Art Association
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
Various organists

* All groups have been approved by the Session

