



SPRING HILL MESSENGER

*December/January
2021/2022*

Advent 2021:

“The Weary World Rejoices”

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

The Gospel of John begins by reminding us that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The eternal Word of God became flesh and blood. The one who was praised by angels in heaven descended into our mess, our brokenness, our worries and fears. He was adored by no-name shepherds, and the wisest sages from foreign empires, and is still worshipped by folks like you and me. In the midst of our darkness, the light broke through. Into our weary world, Christ descended, and now, amidst all the weariness of these days we join our voices with all who have gone before us in rejoicing.

During this season of Advent we are journeying to Bethlehem to prepare our hearts and minds, our lives and our families, our community and our world for yet again welcoming in the birth of the Messiah. In the days ahead I invite you to practice intentionality in this daily journey. In this newsletter you will see details about special worship services, fellowship activities, and Christmas parties, all of which provide opportunities to grow in your faith during this time. Also, the church is again providing Advent Devotional booklets filled with the words of fellow church members, invitations to holy practices, and scripture readings to follow the well-worn Advent paths of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. May these days on the journey of Advent be filled with eagerness and anticipation as together we “come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.”

Grace and Peace,



Dear SHPC Friends,

I love Advent. Advent means “the coming of Christ,” and in Advent we celebrate and anticipate Christ coming into our world. I love watching the light grow on our Advent wreath as we approach Christmas. I love the Christmas pageants, the beautiful music on Cantata Sunday, the music by our children, the thoughtful devotions, and Lessons and Carols. Advent is a season of waiting, longing. Often, we can become sentimental during this season settling for “the sweet coming of a baby” forgetting the teaching, ministry, life and death of Christ. Jesus, in the words of Ricky Bobby, becomes simply “eight-pound, six ounce, newborn infant Jesus” or “sweet baby Jesus.” We forget the scandal of God coming into the world as a helpless infant. Christ came to turn the world upside down, challenging us to love God and our neighbors.

Our theme this Advent is “The Weary World Rejoices.” While there are so many amazing things to look forward to in this season, this time before Christmas makes us weary. There is weariness in mourning the loss of loved ones during a season full of “cheer.” There is weariness in feeling lonely and alone, especially during a pandemic. There is weariness in the plight and reality of being human. Yet, even in our weariness, we rejoice. We look to Christmas knowing that love incarnate comes into the world; a thrill of hope catches in our hearts knowing that Christ comes to make all things new.

This Advent, I am especially excited about our Advent devotionals. This year our devotional is intergenerational and keeps in mind children, youth, and adults. Each day there is something for you to read and sometimes to do including devotions by our church members, Scripture, lighting a candle, taking a walk, writing a letter, coloring, and more. Throughout the season, church members will record their devotions, so you can hear their voice as they share their words. You can find these Advent devotions virtually through our church-wide emails or in paper here at the church. Children, youth, and college students will receive this devotional along with some supplies to help them engage with it deeply.

Look for information in this newsletter to find all kinds of fun during this season of Advent including **Cantata Sunday Dec. 5, Adventfest Dec. 11 from 9:00-11:00 am, the Christmas Pageant Dec. 19, Christmas Craze for our youth Dec. 19, and more.** We hope in this season you will not lose heart or let your weariness overcome, but may a seed of rejoicing grow in your heart. Indeed the light comes in the darkness.

Grace and Peace,

2022 Supper Clubs

As long as things are looking good health-wise, we are planning on re-launching our Supper Clubs in the New Year! Supper Clubs are for anyone who would like to get to know others in our church family in a smaller, relaxed atmosphere. Each person hosts their supper club 1-2 times in a year. Supper Clubs can be hosted in your home, at church, or at a restaurant. Our plan is to reunite the 2020 Supper Clubs (since they only got to meet once) and maybe add a few more. If you are interested in signing up, look for more information coming in 2022.

Save the Dates

Church-Wide Adult Sunday School Series, Jan. 9-30 Bible 101: Stories of Homecoming: This pop-up class led by Buz Wilcoxon and Anna Fulmer Duke will dig into scripture, looking at stories of homecoming! We will meet at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for the month of January (Jan. 9-30). We will be studying stories of Homecoming in Scripture looking at the return of the Exiles, stories of being lost and found, Jesus going home to Nazareth, and our eternal home.

The Word in the Week: Join us Jan. 12-Feb. 23 as we explore the chapter of Peter throughout the Gospels and Acts.

This weekly engaging Bible study will meet from 12:00-1:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring your own lunch for this "brown bag" style study. We will look at the person of Peter exploring his call story, walking on water, his confession of Jesus as Messiah, the Transfiguration story, Peter's denial in the shadow of the cross, his resurrection affirmations, Pentecost, jailbreak, and more!

Advent Opportunities

Adventfest will be Saturday, Dec. 11 starting at 9:00 am. in the Bullard Building. Adventfest is the day where we create Advent wreaths and decorate the Sanctuary. Many hands make light work, so please let us know if you are willing to help collect greenery, make a wreath on Dec. 11, or more! This event is inter-generational, so children and youth are an important part of this event. Our Intergenerational Instrumental Ensemble will be play there too!



Over recent months, one of the changes we have made to our worship patterns at SHPC is that we now have a live flowering plant decorating our sanctuary rather than weekly deliveries of floral arrangements. Many worshipers have commented how nice it is to have something living visibly present in our living worship. As we look ahead into 2022, the Worship Committee has approved continuing this pattern with one plant per month used in the service. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the flowers each month in honor or in memory of loved ones, please contact Sallie Connell. The donation amount will be \$50, and we will list the names of donors and honorees for the entirety of the month in which the plan is used (thus giving more opportunity to celebrate).



The Religious Arts Committee

presents

Devin Burton, baritone

in concert

"A Parcel of Surmise-15 Songs of My Experience"

Randy Sheets, pianist

Friday, February 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.,

in the sanctuary



CURRENT ISSUES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Current Issues Class – Meets In Fellowship Hall (and virtual via Zoom)

Dec. 5 – “My Cup Runneth Over with Gratitude” (Molly Wagner and Judy Weaver)

Dec. 12 – “Animal Rescue: On a Mission for God’s Creatures” (Lee and Donna Lagomarsino)

Dec. 19 – Class Fellowship ending at 9:40, followed by Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary.

Dec. 26 – No Class

Bible Discovery Class – Meets in the Conference Room

Theme for the Month: Wait for It!

Dec. 5 – A Long Wait; Luke 1:5-25, 57-58

Dec. 12 – Mary’s Pondering; Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55

Dec. 19 – Waiting for Prophecy to Be Fulfilled; Luke 2:25-38

Dec. 26 – No Class

There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. Sunday school will resume Jan. 9.

January 2 – *Epiphany Sunday*

January 9- *Baptism of the Lord Sunday* and Ordination of Officers

January 16 – *Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper*

January 21 & 22- *Officer Retreat* for all current Elders & Deacons

Religious Arts - Creches

Once again, our Religious Arts Committee is sponsoring a display of nativity scenes in the library during the Advent season. If you have one that you would like to share with the congregation, please contact Elisa Baldwin (ebaldwin@southalabama.edu or 251-342-1507) to schedule drop-off and pick-up dates in November and December.



WE REJOICE with Peter and Mary Katherine Martin on the birth of their son, John Stanley Martin on October

25, 2021 and Drew and Jordan Hennig on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Haas Hennig on November 15, 2021, the grandparents are Jerry and Lynn Hennig and the great grandparents are Malcolm and Carol Sumrall.

If you have not yet turned in a 2022 Pledge Card or Time & Talent Form you can place them in the offering plate or turn them in to the church office. Extra copies are in each pew, the narthex, and the back hallway.

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, George Barton, Norma Baymiller, Kaye Bradshaw, Frank Callahan, Janet Clarke, Edith Cox, Matt Coleman, Ruth Fitzgerald, Amy Britton Foshee, Ann Hafner, Caleb Harrison, Charles Hartley, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, John Langus, Celia Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Donna Massa, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Sherry Porter, Bill Rawson, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Patricia Trammell Stinson, Pat Stoll, Connie Trawick, Gayle Underwood, Nicholas Vrakelos, Babs Warren, Helen Wells and all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio; The children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program: Eddie, Krystyn, Maylasia, & Milaishia.

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church 2021 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Please read about the agencies and mission projects below, fill out this order form, and give gifts of Justice, Kindness, and Humility this Christmas. Your giving of representative "alternative gifts" to others will be a gift to these agencies.

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT CHECK to the church office any time prior to December 31, 2021.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

*****Please remember that gifts purchased through the Alternative Gift Market are in addition to your annual pledge to the congregation's operating budget. Fill out subtotals for each agency and then a grand total.**

VICTORY HEALTH PARTNERS: Victory Health Partners is a faith based nonprofit healthcare organization providing affordable quality care for low income uninsured adults in the greater Mobile area.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	One hour of counseling for a patient	\$5.00	
	Life-sustaining prescription assistance for a Victory Patient	\$15.00	
	An appointment with a doctor and a filled prescription	\$25.00	
	Two patients will receive a full eye exam and a free pair of eyeglasses	\$50.00	
	\$3,000 worth of Healthcare – (For every \$1 donated, \$30 worth of care is provided.)	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

WINGS OF LIFE: Mobile's Wings of Life impacts hurting people & negative social issues with programs designed to have positive, lasting effects, including a feeding ministry for the homeless & a drug/alcohol recovery program.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Care packages for 2 people who are homeless	\$10.00	
	5 meals for guests struggling with homelessness	\$20.00	
	Christmas gifts for children experiencing homelessness	\$50.00	
	Administrative office supplies for one month	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

PENELOPE HOUSE: Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social & economic independence through shelter, counseling, advocacy, & referral to community resources in the Mobile area.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	New socks and undies for a child staying in the shelter	\$15.00	
	Walmart Gift Card provided to clients to meet special needs	\$20.00	
	One night of shelter (including food and Domestic Violence Counseling-Advocacy)	\$75.00	
	Assisting a child with 2 pairs of pants and 2 shirts for his/her school	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

McKEMIE PLACE: McKemie Place is the *only* overnight shelter for single women in Mobile, Washington & Baldwin Counties. McKemie Place is a safe haven for women experiencing homelessness, providing an evening meal & a place for women to temporarily stay overnight.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Laundry and cleaning supplies for 1 woman	\$5.00	
	Supplies to feed 60 women one evening meal	\$20.00	
	New set of clothes for 2 women	\$50.00	
	Linens for 3 overnight lodgers (sheets, pillows, towels, etc.)	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

HOME OF GRACE: Home of Grace provides a comprehensive alcohol & drug recovery program for females in the Mobile area, ages 18 & up, through a twelve-week residential program and through support for young expectant mothers.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Recovery workbook and Bible for an individual client coming into the program	\$5.00	
	Transportation for a pregnant client going to and from doctor visits while in the program	\$20.00	
	Care package for a woman beginning her stay in the recovery program	\$50.00	
	Provide counseling services to a woman in the recovery program	\$75.00	
	Help feed 10 clients breakfast, lunch and dinner during their 12-week program	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

FAMILY PROMISE: Family Promise of Coastal Alabama provides shelter services for families (parents & children) experiencing homelessness, preparing them for success in the community once they have secured safe, permanent housing.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Field trip for a child whose family is staying in the shelter program	\$5.00	
	Transportation for an entire family for one week	\$25.00	
	Afterschool care for children while parents work at job to get out of homelessness	\$50.00	
	Utility deposit for family moving into a secure home after being homeless	\$100.00	
	<i>Other donation amount of your choosing</i>		
		SUBTOTAL	

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: Gifts bring sustainable agriculture & commerce to areas of poverty around the world. Animals provide partners with food & reliable income, as agricultural products can be traded or sold at market.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Share of a sheep, goat, or pig	\$10.00	
	Flock of ducks, geese, or chicks (\$20); Honey Bees (\$30); Trio of Rabbits (\$60) <i><circle one></i>	\$20 \$30 \$60	
	Share of a heifer	\$50.00	
	Entire goat, pig, or sheep (\$120); Water Buffalo (\$250); Entire Heifer (\$500) <i><circle one></i>	\$120 \$250 \$500	
	NOTE: There are also separate Heifer International order forms that include additional options/amounts for donation. Contact the church office for the full order form.		
		SUBTOTAL	

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY (PCUSA): Gifts provide help, hope & relief to people of all ages, families, & communities around the world who have experienced disaster or are in need.

Qty	Description of Representative Gifts equivalent to Your Donation	Unit Price	Ext Price
	Fishing net (\$15); Kitchen kit (\$25); School Supplies (\$30); Sewing Machine (\$50) <i><circle one></i>	\$15 \$25 \$30 \$50	
	Garden well (\$50/share); Water Filter (\$50); Rainwater catchment system (\$75) <i><circle one></i>	\$50 \$75	
	Farming tools (\$10); Container garden (\$40); Bag of seeds (\$40) <i><circle one></i>	\$10 \$40	
	Refugee food basket (\$50); Famine food voucher (\$150); Child's bunk bed (\$200) <i><circle one></i>	\$50 \$150 \$200	
		SUBTOTAL	

Please make your GRAND TOTAL check payable to SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Fill out subtotals for each agency and then a grand total. And please remember that gifts purchased through the Alternative Gift Market are in addition to your annual pledge to the congregation's operating budget. Thank you.

GRAND TOTAL:



Join Mobile's Singing Children
as we celebrate 45 years of
"Celebrating the Season with Music!"

Sunday, December 5, 2021
3:00 pm

Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
2 South Claiborne Street
Mobile, AL 36602

\$10 suggested donation at the door | Additional information available at mobilesingingchildren.org



CHRISTMAS IS A TIME for GIVING TO OTHERS

...and you can do that by "shopping" SHPC's **ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET (AGM)** form for some of the **BEST GIFTS EVER** in honor of your family and friends.

Our **AGM** order form features representative gifts of hope, benefitting our local community and the world beyond. Forms will be available in December in the newsletter, weekly e-news, bulletins, and in the church office. Gift selections and donations may be made any time prior to December 31 by submitting your gift order form and attached donation check in the offering plate or sending them to Susan Richardson in the church office. Gift cards for you to send to honored friends and family may also be obtained in the narthex, church hallway, or church office.

Agencies selected for our 2021 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Victory Health Partners
Wings of Life
Penelope House
McKemie Place
Home of Grace
Family Promise
Heifer International
The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA)



PLEASE HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A GIFT FOR OTHERS

John 1:16 - "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

Advent & Christmas 2021

"The Weary World Rejoices"

November and December

Celebration of Creches: Rotating display of church members' manger scenes in the church library

Sunday, November 28 First Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Worship: "A World Weary for Peace" (Isaiah 11)

Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Worship: **Cantata Sunday:** Handel's *Messiah* (excerpts from the Christmas portion) performed by the Chancel Choir, soloists, and chamber orchestra.

5:00 PM *Alphabet Generations* Christmas fellowship gathering at Mellow Mushroom

Saturday, December 11

9:00 AM **Advent-fest:** Making wreaths, decorating the sanctuary, intergenerational fellowship event

Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM -Worship "Leaping for Joy" (Luke 1)- Decorating the Crismon Tree, music by the Children's Choirs, Youth Singers, and Spring Hill Ringers

11:30 Youth & Children Christmas Parties after worship

Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM **Christmas Pageant** in the sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship: **Service of Lessons and Carols**

4:00 -8:00 PM **Christmas Craze:** Youth Event with Government Street Presbyterian.

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

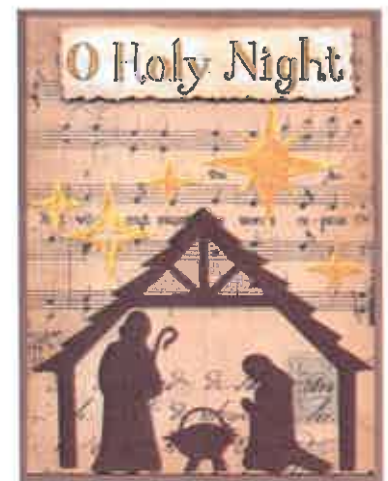
Candlelight Worship- "Good News of Great Joy for All People" (Luke 2)

4:00 PM- Family Service

8:00PM-Communion Service

Sunday, December 26 First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 AM Worship: "The Joy of Life and Light" (John 1)



**SHPC invites you to an
Advent Festival
Saturday, Dec. 11**

**9:00-11:00 am at the Church (begin
in the Bullard Building)**

- Gather greenery before Dec. 11 for wreaths
- Help Decorate the Church
- Calling all kids! Come make cookies and hear the Christmas story!
- Learn how to make a wreath!
- Hear the Instrumental Ensemble play carols.
- Sign-up in the hallway, so we know we can count on you!



"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ANGEL TREE GIFTS for CHILDREN & SENIOR ADULTS

ANGEL TREE SUCCESS: Thank You! All 40 angel cards for children and senior adults have been selected from our tree as an SHPC Act of Faith this Christmas! Gifts should be wrapped and labeled with the recipient's name and angel #. If there are multiple gifts, please enclose them all in a large bag and also label it with the recipient's name and angel #. **Gifts need to be delivered to the church parlor between Sunday, November 28, and Sunday, December 5. Questions? - Please contact Vera Lynn Sheets (call/text 251-454-6846; sheetsvl@aol.com).**

Youth Ministry for December and January

Youth Sunday School will gather in December

Dec. 5: Children's and Youth Choir at 5:00 pm (note time change for this week).

Dec. 11: Adventfest from 9:00-11:00 am. Our Instrumental Ensemble will be playing.

Dec 12: Children Sing in Worship, Youth Group and BLAST after worship from 11:30-1:00 pm

Dec. 19: Children's and Youth Nativity Play at 9:00 am, **Christmas Craze** from 4:00-8:00 pm with Government Street Presbyterian.

Christmas Craze will be a youth event with Government Street Presbyterian. It will be Sunday, December 19 from 4:00-8:00 pm. We will go caroling, look at Christmas lights, eat dinner together, decorate cookies, and more! This event is for both high school and middle school youth. Sign-up using our Google Form, so we can plan for you: <https://forms.gle/QR1xEApBZhQXVdQ6>

Dec. 26 and Jan. 2: No Sunday School or after-worship activities.

Jan. 8-9: SHPC and GSPC Youth Lock-In: Join us for a lock-in Saturday, Jan. 8-9. We will gather in the early afternoon on Saturday at SHPC and stay for worship Sunday, Jan. 9. Sign-up using our Google Form: <https://forms.gle/TVbHeqrW2ghpDy4y5>. We will gather around 2:00 pm on Saturday and be done Sunday after worship.

Jan. 16: No after-worship activities.

Jan. 23: Children's and Youth Choir

Jan. 30: Youth Group and BLAST from 11:30-1:00 pm

Montreat Youth Trips: Montreat High School is for youth who are currently in 8th-12th grades and will be June 4-11, 2022. Middle School Montreat is for youth who are currently in 5-8th grades and will be July 20-24, 2022. The cost is \$300. A \$100 deposit is due by Jan. 1. The remaining \$200 is due Mar. 1. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Anna Fulmer Duke.

Children's Ministry for December and January

Dec. 5: Children's and Youth Choir at 5:00 pm (note time change for this week). Alphabet Generations will meet at Mellow Mushroom for a fellowship gathering at 5:00 pm.

Dec. 11: Adventfest from 9:00-11:00 am. Children will make cookies in the Bullard Building kitchen and help decorate for Christmas.

Dec 12: Children Sing in Worship, BLAST and Youth Group after worship from 11:30-1:00 pm

Dec. 19: Children's and Youth Nativity Play at 9:00 am: On Sunday December 19, our children and youth will be in their own special nativity play. No dress rehearsals necessary! We ask that children show up at 9 am to pick costumes and practice. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Our big show will be at **9:40 am in the Sanctuary**. Leave Sunday school a little early for this fun and festive event!

Dec. 26 and Jan. 2: No Sunday School or after-worship activities.

Jan. 9: BLAST


Jan. 16: No after-worship activities.

Jan. 23: Children's and Youth Choir

Jan. 30: Youth Group and BLAST

KidsLead is every Sunday morning at 9:00 am. This month look forward to making Christmas cards and placemats, sprucing up the Memorial Garden, and our Christmas Pageant. We will not be meeting Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. We will return Jan. 9 at 9:00 am.

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 PWCT Chancel Choir	2 Writing Group AA	3	4 AA
5 Worship Cantata		7 Committees	8 Day Circle Night Circle Chancel Choir	9 AA	10	11 Adventfest AA
12 Worship	13	14 Session Diaconate	15 Chancel Choir	16 Preschool Christmas Program AA	17	18 AA
19 Worship Lessons & Carols Christmas Craze Youth Christmas Parties	20	21	22	23 AA	24 4:00 -Family Service 8:00 pm Communion Service	25 Merry Christmas
26 Worship	27	28	29	30 AA	31 New Years Eve	

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY★NEW★YEAR						1 AA
2 Epiphany Worship	3 Outreach MSC	4 MSC	5 PWCT Chancel Choir	6 AA	7 Youth	8 Retreat AA
9 Sunday Schools Worship Ordination/ installation	10 MSC	11 MSC	12 Day Circle Night Circle Chancel Choir	13 AA	14	15 Yeoman Workday AA
16 Sunday Schools Worship (no afternoon classes)	17 Church office closed MSC	18 Session Diaconate MSC	19 Chancel Choir	20 AA	21 Officer	22 Retreat AA
23 Sunday Schools Worship	24 MSC	25 MSC	26 Chancel Choir	27 Spiritual Writing Group AA	28	29 AA
30 Sunday Schools Worship	31 MSC	Sunday School's are at 9:00 a.m. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. *Children's and Youth Choir are at 4:00 p.m. on the 23rd *Blast & Youth group are at 11:30 a.m. on the 9th & 30th				