

# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

December/January 2018

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

### DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Here we are, nearing the end of 2018, but just beginning the season of Advent—the time of hopeful anticipation, active waiting, and deep celebration of the coming of Christ into our world. In these days of Advent, the language and liturgy pulse with a steady pull, drawing us forward into God's future, into new ways of seeing Christ's presence in our lives, our relationships, our work, our world. We are called forth to follow, to move forward to Bethlehem and out into the world to share the news of what we have seen. We join the journey of the shepherds and wise men who traveled to "see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us." In the holiness of these days, the hope of the season lifts our eyes ahead to glimpse the advent of the Kingdom in our midst.

And yet, with all the forward-thrust of this time, I (and perhaps you?) find myself looking back an awful lot. These days leading to Christmas are filled with so many memories. I remember the joy in my children's faces on recent Christmases and the wonder of my own childhood. I remember the smells and tastes of feasts through the years and the beauty of those who shared in these meals. I remember 5 years ago, starting my ministry here at SHPC on the first Sunday of Advent. I remember my grandfather's voice reading the words of the Christmas story in a cadence forever etched in my mind. Each Advent hymn and

Christmas carol feels full to the brim with memories that mere words can't contain.

Soon, our whole church family will begin an exciting journey into our memories as a congregation. 2019 will be the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, and we will celebrate throughout the entire year! You'll see in this newsletter the first release of our calendar of anniversary celebrations. A special committee, chaired by Jo Barton, has been hard at work for months planning these variety of experiences and programs that will help connect us to our past so that we might journey together into the future that God has prepared for us.

One of my favorite church historians once said, "Our memories become the mentors of our hopes." In

the coming year, you are going to get sick and tired of hearing that quote from me (fair warning). It is absolutely true that the experiences of the past that shape our identity and give us eyes to see what new thing God is up to. And so, as we venture into our history so that we might journey into our future may we do so knowing that we do not travel alone. We sojourn together as a church family and we are joined with "all ye faith, joyful, and triumphant" who come to Bethlehem and beyond.

Grace and Peace,



*"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." – Luke 2:15*

## "THIS ADVENT: WAIT. NOTICE. TRUST."

DEAR FRIENDS,

With the holidays approaching in my life, there is a whole bunch of preparations—creating schedules, planning time with family and friends, purchasing gifts for loved ones. Preparing is one part of the season of Advent—preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. But this preparation often looks different than the hustling and bustling I usually do. This preparation involves waiting. I rarely sit and just wait—even in “waiting rooms” I have my phone or a book to distract me. If I have to wait too much, I start to get antsy, frustrated, annoyed. Yet, the practice of waiting is an important one. It reminds us that not all of our time has to be structured and accounted for. We can let go of our agendas and to-do lists and wait for something that is not yet, but will come. It also is completely different from our immediate-gratification culture where we can get almost anything with just a click. The world requires us to wait. We might be able to buy almost anything immediately, but things like joy, peace,



love, and hope don't happen instantaneously. Our bodies do not heal immediately and neither do our souls. If we learn waiting, it builds patience and deep trust. Small moments of waiting help us practice for those crucial moments of waiting and anticipation—waiting for the results of a test, for a new child to arrive, for the world to change, for us to change.

In this season of Advent, practice waiting. Watch water boil. Notice leaves falling. Pause beside a candle. Behold the glow of Christmas lights. Notice opportunities to wait in your everyday life. It is in the waiting that we meet our Lord and Savior.

PEACE,

ANNA FULMER DUKE



### Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday school and children's church classes will begin December by hearing the story of Micah. Micah told the Hebrews to look toward Bethlehem for a ruler that would bring them peace.

We will also learn of God's promise to give Zechariah and Elizabeth a son, and how Zechariah's voice returns after the birth of John.

As we get closer to Christmas, children will hear and "act out" the story of Jesus' birth. We will discuss that Jesus was God's gift of love to us.

We will end December learning about Simeon and Anna, and how they had been waiting many years for the special child God had promised.

The month of January begins with the story of Epiphany. Children will hear the story of the wise men following the star to find Jesus. Our classes will continue in January with more stories from the book of Luke. They will hear of Jesus' baptism by John, and discuss their own baptism. We will also hear the story of Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. We will finish January by learning about Jesus' ministry, and our call to be disciples of Christ.

### SAVE THESE DATES

Children's Sunday School

**Sunday, December 23 at 9:00 am**

**Sunday December 23- Nativity Play,**

Our children and youth will be in their own special nativity play. No dress rehearsals necessary! We ask that children and youth show up at 9 am to pick costumes and practice. We will meet in the Sanctuary Our big show will be at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary. Leave Sunday school a little early for this fun and festive event!

**Jan. 27 at 9 am Communion Class**  
for Kids (and parents too)

**Thursday, April 11 Easter Egg Hunt**  
from 5:30-7 pm

**June 24-27 Vacation Bible School**

## Our 75th Anniversary Year Begins!

### *a Great Cloud of Witness*

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

75th Anniversary

#### 2019 Tentative Calendar of Events

**January 13** - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" -history of Spring Hill Sunday School Class

**February 8-9** - Hosting the Presbyteries of South Alabama & Mississippi

**February 10** - Festival of Faiths : "Who Is My Neighbor" (speaker: Dr. Roger Nishioka)

**March 24**—Celebration of Music and Art

**March TBD** – Dedication of Memorial Garden

**April 28** - Trolley Pilgrimage – afternoon tour of places of importance for our church's history\*

**May 19**- Outdoor Concert on the Lawn

**June – August** – Worshipping Through the Ages : Historical Worship Summer Series  
Faith and the Arts Summer Sunday School Series

**July 16** (Tuesday)- Birthday Celebration potluck with cake and ice cream

**August 25** – Church-wide Talent Show

**September 8** (Rally Day)- Fish Fry – Prepared by the Men of the church

**October 5** (Saturday) – 75th Anniversary Gala (at the Strada Center)\*

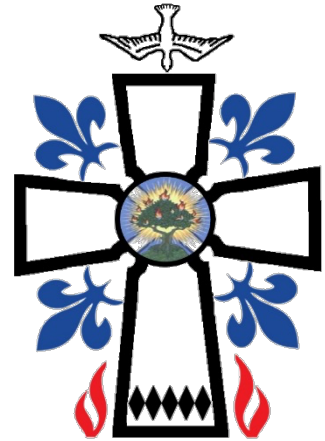
**October 6** – Homecoming Worship Service

**November 3** – All Saints Sunday Thanksgiving Potluck

**December 8** - Cantata Sunday

\*Some events will require reservations and a cost

Questions: Please contact Jo Barton (chair of 75th Anniversary Committee)  
at Jobarton300@gmail.com or 251-401-9685



### **Let's Make a 75th Anniversary Guest List**

**Help Prepare by Collecting Names and Addresses by March 1.**

In 2019, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 75th Anniversary! And we need your help to make it extra special. If you know someone who was once a member of our congregation, has moved away and you think they would like to be a part of our 75th Anniversary, please provide us with their name and address. We need these names no later than March 1, 2019. Please mail to Marcia at the church or email to Marcia@sphc.us .

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration year begins in January and we invite everyone in our congregation to join in and be a part of this year-long celebration. We will kick off the year with a special **Sunday School class on January 13** and we need long-time members, new members, those who have been members for a while, young and old to be there. In other words, we need you to attend! We will look back over the past 75 years in three different ways: We'll look at the history of our church from its beginnings to the present day; we'll look at some historical and cultural events that have impacted our lives during the past 75 years; and we'll look at our own personal milestones in the history of the church. Great is God's faithfulness and in this hour, we will begin to explore and discuss the many ways that God has blessed this church and its members during the past 75 years. Come and reflect, respond and rejoice as we begin our anniversary journey together as a church family.

Please call Sallie or Marcia at the church office (342-1550) and let them know you are planning to attend. Your responses will help us better prepare and help ensure that everyone has the necessary materials. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, January 13!

### SINGING OUR FAITH: THE POETRY OF HYMNS

**A two-part class offered by Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries  
Saturday, January 19 and 26, 11:00 am – 12:30 p.m.**

During 2019, the 75th anniversary year of Spring Hill Presbyterian, we will celebrate a practice that is vital in our worship--- congregational song. The first such celebration is a two-part class entitled Singing Our Faith: The Poetry of Hymns. On two Saturdays in January, Randy Sheets will lead interested persons in considering the art and craft of hymn poems. Using hymn poems by writers from different times and traditions, we will look at these topics:

**Poetry and Music: what makes a perfect marriage?**

**Transforming Biblical words to rhythmic, rhymed poetry.**

**Rhythm, rhyme, and mood—from meditative to jubilant.**

**Singing What We Believe--- profound theology that we sing together.**

The sessions are for anyone who is interested. Just as some of our people did to celebrate our 50th anniversary, some class members may wish to try their hand at writing a hymn poem, which may be presented at our 75th Anniversary Hymn Sing on March 24. As an extension of the class, upon request, Randy will be willing to give feedback to the authors during their creative process.

To assist planning, please register for the class by providing Randy Sheets with the information requested below ([rsheets@shpc.us](mailto:rsheets@shpc.us)).

---

Registration Form

Singing Our Faith: The Poetry of Hymns (Rhythm, Sound and Sense)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jan. 4-5 Youth Lock-In Middle and High Schoolers** are invited to join us for a lock-in Friday night Jan. 4. We will meet at the church at 5:30 pm for dinner and games. We will then go bowling, engage in a special late-night worship, and more! To sign-up please contact Anna at [anna@shpc.us](mailto:anna@shpc.us)

**Jan. 13 MORNING Youth Group Event:** Join us as we cheer runners on at the First Light Half Marathon! Plan to meet at 9 am outside near the chapel. We will also be walking mile 13 of the marathon to support unity in the city of Mobile. Afterwards, we will go out to lunch. Dress warmly! There will be no youth group that night.

**Feb. 15-17 Youth Mission Trip to Presbyterian Home for Children** We invite all youth to join us for a mission trip to Talladega, AL to the Presbyterian Home for Children. Families and adults are also invited to join us on this intergenerational trip! To sign up please contact Anna at [anna@shpc.us](mailto:anna@shpc.us) or Ted Auttersen.

**March 24: Youth Sunday**



### Sign Up or Go Hungry!!

The Deadline to sign-up for Supper Clubs is Dec. 17.

Hope you will join one of these great fellowship groups! See the bulletin board in the hallway for signups!



### We Share in Sorrow.

The Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Cammie Belue on the death of her husband, Michael Belue on

November 24, and with Sue Nelson Berthaume on the death of her husband, David Berthaume on November 24, 2018.



**Spring Hill Mother's Day Out and Week Day School** cordially invites you and your family to our

### Annual Christmas Program: Wednesday, December 12th In The Sanctuary 12 Noon

Our Pre-K and Pre-K2 classes will sing Christmas songs and songs we have learned in Chapel.

Come join us as celebrate Jesus' birth and spread Christmas cheer!

### Prepare Ye! Winter/Spring Church-Wide Events!

**There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 30.**  
**Sunday school will resume Jan. 6.**

**Jan. 13:** Church History and Table Discussion at 9 am, Fellowship Hall

**First Light Half Marathon**

**Jan. 27:** Supper Club Kick-off Lunch

**Feb. 10:** Festival of Faith Kickoff, Breakfast, and Annual Congregational Meeting

**Feb. 17:** Festival of Faith at 9 am

**Feb. 24:** Festival of Faith at 9 am

**Thursday, April 11:** Easter Egg Hunt 5:30-7 pm

**April 28:** Senior Breakfast (High School) and Graduation Sunday

**June 2:** Summer Series Begins

## Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

### JOURNEYING TO BETHLEHEM ADVENT 2018

#### **Sunday, December 2**

10:30 AM Cantata Sunday Worship—  
Chancel Choir, Soloists,  
Chamber Orchestra, and Readers

3:30 PM Advent Festival—  
Intergenerational Church-wide event  
Crafts, Decorations, Food,  
Music by Instrumental Ensemble,  
Celebration of Creches (Nativity Scenes)



#### **Sunday December 9**

10:30 AM Worship—  
“Isaiah’s Song of Freedom” -Isaiah 40:1-11  
Spring Hill Ringers, Elementary & Cherub Choirs



#### **Sunday, December 16**

10:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols



#### **Sunday, December 23**

9:45 AM Children’s Nativity Play  
(children arrive at 9:00)  
10:30 AM Worship –  
“Mary’s Song of Hope” –Luke 1:39-56



#### **Monday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services –Luke 2:1-20  
5:00 PM – Family Service (nursery provided)  
9:00 PM – Communion Service

### **PW** Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on  
Wednesday, December 5 at 9:30 in the Conference  
Room. Circles will meet on Wednesday, December 12  
as follows:

**Circle 1** (Day Circle) at 10:00am in the Parlor

**Circle 2** (Night Circle) at 6:00pm in the Parlor

#### **Important Dates:**

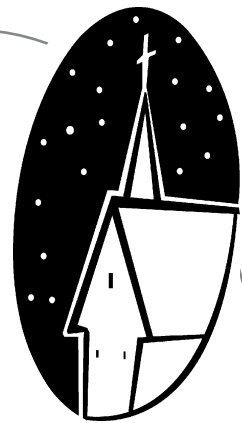
**May 8** - Birthday Offering and installation of  
Officers. Budget presented. Birthday Offering  
received.

**June 13-15, 2019** AL/MS Women’s Conference  
and Synod Gathering

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Last Tuesday of each  
month at 10:00 am.

### *Joy Gift*

The Joy Gift  
Offering is taken  
once a year at  
Christmas by  
Presbyterian  
congregations to  
support the Board of Pensions for the  
Assistance Programs and for the  
Committee on Higher Education to  
support Presbyterian racial and ethnic  
schools and colleges. Special  
envelopes will be in the pews on



*December 16.*





## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

**Cantata Sunday 2018**

DECEMBER 2, DURING 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Music by Mendelssohn, Bach, Rutter, and others  
For choir, soloists, and chamber orchestra of 15 instrumentalists

Dr. Wes Baldwin, Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke, and Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, readers

---

### **IMPROVE CIRCULATION, BALANCE, STRENGTH (AND STEALTH).**

**Tai Chi at SHPC resumes on January 7.** Come experience the gentle, calming, yet strengthening exercise that is increasingly recognized as beneficial to persons of all ages and levels of fitness. Randy Sheets will lead classes for beginners or experienced tai chi players on Monday mornings from 10:30-11:15 in our Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or wonder if Tai Chi is for you and your physical condition, please contact Randy at the church or at [rsheets@shpc.us](mailto:rsheets@shpc.us). Come join us for this practice known as "moving meditation."

What: Tai Chi Exercise Class

Who is invited: Anyone. (contact Randy Sheets if you have questions.)

Cost: No charge

**When: Mondays—beginning Jan. 7, from 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

Orientation (for persons who did not participate in our November classes)--- Jan. 7 at 10:00 a.m., preceding the 10:30 class.

What to wear/bring: wear comfortable shoes (or go barefoot) and loose clothes in which you can move freely. Bring a bottle of water if you wish.

Note: Participants will sign a waiver, absolving SHPC of liability in the unlikely case of injury.

Note about Scheduling: If you are interested, but the schedule doesn't work for you, please let Randy know.



## Recycling spreads the Gospel!

RECYCLING is a big movement these days and YOU can do it also. It may seem a small way, but you can make a big difference in Spanish speaking Sunday Schools in remote areas of USA as well as in Central and South America. It doesn't cost anything, weigh anything and helps to spread the Word of Jesus. How can this happen? Simply cut cancelled stamps off their envelopes and put them in the marked collection box in the Brides Room. Everyone can participate in this effort. The Alliance Stamp Ministry, in which our church has participated for more than a few years, has created a way to raise significant monies solely for the purpose of preparation, publishing and distribution of Christian Sunday school curricula to spread the gospel in Central and Latin America and Spanish speaking denominations in the USA.

Here's how it works: you tear or cut cancelled stamps of any kind from letters, packages, or even foreign correspondence leaving a minimal ¼ inch margin around the stamp(s). The only ineligible stamps are those preprinted on the envelope or from a meter. Yes, even those stamps from nonprofit organizations are valid. Drop them off in the marked box in the Brides Room. Done!! We're all bound to receive an abundance of mail this holiday & year-end season, so keep an eye out and recycle those cancelled stamps.

The stamps go to the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers, FL, where a cadre of volunteers sort and categorize the stamps which are sold in bulk to stamp collectors anywhere in the world. The current purchase price is \$30 per pound for first class stamps and \$35 per pound for foreign stamps. This ministry which began in 1972 has successfully raised thousands of dollars for the Sunday School Project.

Give your stamps a second life and use them to help spread the gospel especially to children needing to know of God's love. If you have questions, contact Janie Sims 340-6534.



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS- TWICE THE POWER!

Each Sunday after the worship service, the sanctuary flowers are delivered to members who are hospital patients or shut-ins (either at home or in a facility). It is a very rewarding experience and wonderful ministry of the church to reach out to members who are unable to attend worship.

**We need volunteers to deliver the flowers in 2019 and it is coming up soon!** If you are available to deliver on a Sunday, please call the church office (342-1550) or email Sallie at [sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org).

| Statement as of October 2018            |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                         |           |
| Total Budgeted Revenue                  | \$886,720 |
|                                         |           |
| Year to date received                   | 626,847   |
| Other receipts                          | 33,961    |
| Total Receipts                          | \$660,808 |
|                                         |           |
| Benevolences                            | 47,362    |
| Salaries and services                   | 453,779   |
| Programs                                | 25,643    |
| Office expenses                         | 22,930    |
| General & plant services                | 165,546   |
| Other                                   | 26,559    |
| Total Expenses                          | \$741,819 |
|                                         |           |
| Excess receipts over expenses (deficit) | -\$81,011 |
|                                         |           |
|                                         |           |

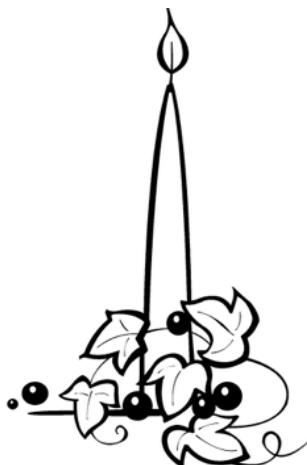


**Memorials have  
been received  
for the following:**

John Morrisette  
Mary Byrd  
Alex Lankford  
Ed & Annie Ayres Terry

**From the following:**

Charlie & Lila Bailey  
Hilda Gewin  
John & Phyllis Mostellar  
Kit Caffey & Daughters  
Jean Williams  
Gloria Walker  
Anne & William Sherren  
R. Preston Bolt



|    | Church calendar: January 2019                                                                          |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Church Office closed                                                                                   |
| 2  | Presbyterian Women Coordination Team – 9:30 a.m.                                                       |
| 4  | Youth Lock-in                                                                                          |
| 5  | Back Pack for Kids                                                                                     |
| 6  | Installation of New Officers                                                                           |
| 7  | Tai Chi-10:30                                                                                          |
| 8  | Breakfast Bible Study                                                                                  |
| 9  | Circle 1-10 am<br>Circle 2- 6 pm<br>Word of the Week 12 Noon<br>Handbells and Chancel Choir start back |
| 11 | Officer Retreat                                                                                        |
| 12 | COLT- Spanish Fort Presbyterian                                                                        |
| 13 | First Light Marathon<br>Worship - Communion                                                            |
| 15 | Session 6 pm<br>Diaconate 7 pm                                                                         |
| 16 | Word in the Week 12:00 Noon                                                                            |
| 19 | Clean-up Day 8 am<br>Hymn Class- 11:00 am                                                              |
| 20 | Supper Club Kick-Off                                                                                   |
| 21 | MLK- Office closed                                                                                     |
| 23 | Word in the Week 12:00 Noon                                                                            |
| 24 | Christus Lecture                                                                                       |
| 26 | Him writing class                                                                                      |
| 27 | Kids 101 Bible class 9 am                                                                              |
| 30 | Word in the Week 12:00 Noon<br>Lunch to Kick-off supper clubs 11:30                                    |

|       | Church Calendar: December 2018                                                                           |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Back Pack for Kids 9:00                                                                                  |
| 2     | Cantata Sunday<br>Advent Festival 3:30                                                                   |
| 4     | Committees                                                                                               |
| 5     | Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 10:00 am.                                                         |
| 9     | Children Sing in Worship                                                                                 |
| 11    | Breakfast Bible Study<br>Session 6 pm<br>Diaconate 7 pm                                                  |
| 12    | Circle 1, 10 am<br>Circle 2, 6 pm<br>Christmas Program-Pre-school 12:00 Noon                             |
| 15    | Yeoman Workday 8 am                                                                                      |
| 16    | Service of Lessons and Carols                                                                            |
| 23    | Children's Nativity Play 9:45                                                                            |
| 24    | Christmas Eve Candlelight Services<br>5:00-Family Service (nursery provided)<br>9:00 – Communion Service |
| 24-25 | Church Office closed                                                                                     |
| 31    | New Years-Office closed                                                                                  |



**We Rejoice.**

We rejoice with Dr.  
Bob and Diana

Oatsvall in the birth of a grandchild on Sept 17, in Mandeville La. parents are Brian and Brittany Oatsvall; and with Ted and Marcia Auttersen in the birth of granddaughter, Pierce Elizabeth Bunch on October 23 in Columbia, SC; Parents are Parks and Alisa Bunch; and with Fay Phillips in the birth of a grandson, Dudley Earl Dawson "Ley" on November 5; Parents are Earle and Fay Dawson.

We rejoice with Lewis and Barkley Shreve in the marriage of their Daughter, Mary Alice, to Cory Michael Cain on November 3 in the sanctuary.

**Reminder:**

**The Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Foundation Trust** – Don't forget that this Trust exists for managing and disbursing money and other properties left to "Spring Hill Presbyterian Church" in your will (or by a lifetime gift) which could be your own special Spiritual Legacy left for the use and benefit of the Church.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church  
10 Westminster Way  
Mobile, AL 36608

[www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage

**Paid**

Permit No. 1252  
Mobile, AL

*Merry Christmas from the Staff!*

