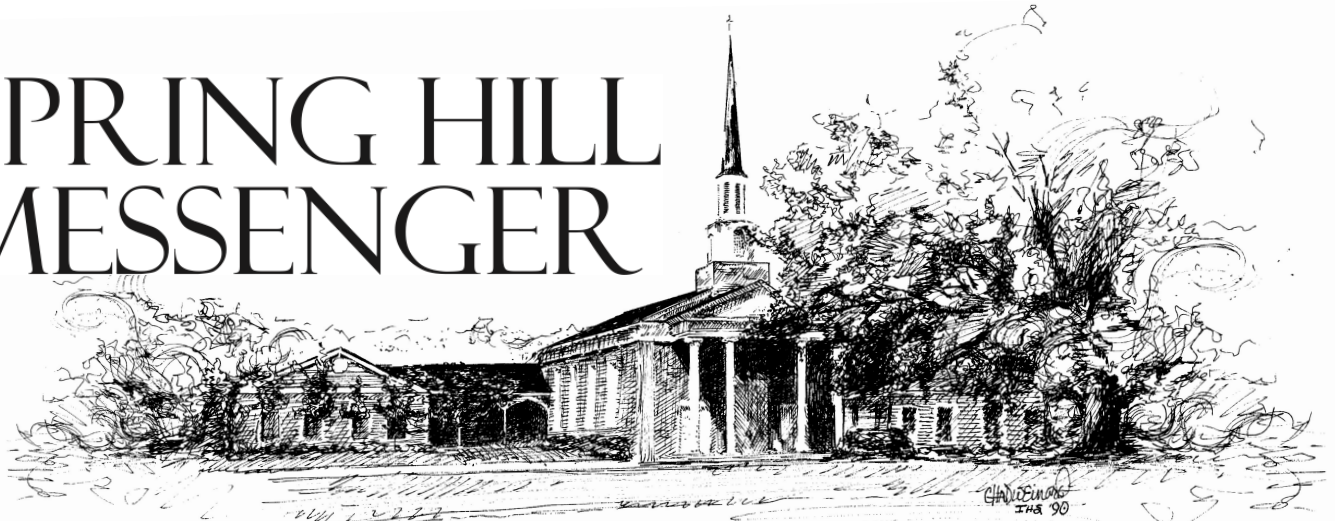


# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 83, Number 1, February 2018

## LENT 2018: STONES THAT SHOUT

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

Our year of 2018 is only one month old, and what a wonderful start it has been! We've ordained and installed another outstanding class of elders and deacons, we've celebrated a city-wide weekend of service and unity remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, we've dug deep in studying the book of Proverbs on Sundays and Wednesdays, we've completed a stewardship campaign with increased giving to the church, we've honored and celebrated Rev. Anna Fulmer's engagement with a church-wide wedding shower, we've welcomed our Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to worship on Scout Sunday. The month of January has been "full" to say the least, and now February brings some important opportunities for us to deepen our spiritual walk in the season of Lent and in our Festival of Faith.

Lent is a time of preparation and introspection. In this 40 day season of sacrifice and prayer we journey along the well-worn path that leads to the table on Maundy Thursday, the cross on Good Friday, and the empty tomb on Easter morning. The stories that we read and study during this season remind us of who Jesus is, what he has come to

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer"*  
- Psalm 19:14

do, and how we are called to follow him. Our journey of Lent is 40 days as a reminder of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in fasting and prayer, where he was tempted to turn stones into bread. Throughout his

ministry he would encounter other stones, some ready to be cast at sinners in punishment. He would use the image of stones or rocks in his teaching to explain the importance of having a strong foundation in your life,

and how his own death and resurrection would embody the words of the psalmist "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Ultimately, a stone would be rolled against his tomb, sealing the death that he suffered for us, and three days later, the women who went to anoint his body would find that same stone rolled away in wonder. These stories from Jesus' life are the foundation of our faith, the solid rock upon which the church is built. This month we will begin a sermon series that will last throughout Lent and into Easter entitled,

**"Stones that Shout"** as we study these important texts on Sunday mornings and their Old Testament echoes on Wednesdays during our mid-week worship services.



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On the weekend of **February 23-25** we continue a wonderful tradition at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with our 2018 Festival of Faith. Our theme for this year's Festival is "While We Live We Serve," and we will certainly be serving a great deal through many mission and service projects around our community. You can sign up for these projects in the Fellowship Hall anytime before the weekend of the Festival. This year's guest speaker will be an outstanding Presbyterian scholar and one of my most important mentors, Dr. Peter Hobbie, professor emeritus of religion from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. Dr. Hobbie has spent decades teaching Theology, Church History, Old Testament, New Testament, Philosophy, and other inter-disciplinary courses and he

has done so from a strong foundation in our Presbyterian and Reformed heritage. He has shaped a generation of leaders in the church and was a major part of my own discernment into ministry. He will offer two lectures (one on Friday, February 23 and one on Sunday, February 25) entitled, "The Life of the Mind in Service to God" which will examine the intersections of faith and science and how the church's engagement with the pursuit of truth has evolved over the centuries. You are in for a treat with this great scholar and gifted teacher.

Grace and Peace,

**BUZ**

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## STONES THAT SHOUT AND A SURPRISE THAT ROCKS!

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am grateful and speechless. If someone wasn't nervous I might over schedule myself last month (and I probably would have), you guys would have easily tricked me. I did not see a Church-Wide Wedding shower coming. I couldn't believe so many people were in on the surprise. After hearing what you guys were up to, I called Buz to see how long I had been out of the loop—he told me since October! Thank you for your generosity and for your welcome as we begin a new stage of life together. I am so glad we were able to celebrate with our church family. I am so glad I get to be one of your pastors. I am not sure how to express how much your love, support, and care means to me.

This year, as we enter into February I am excited. Not just because in less than two months I will be married! But for all of the opportunities for us to worship and serve Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer. Lent begins on Feb. 14, and our theme this Lent is "Stones that Shout"—we will be exploring the theme of stones in Scripture. Each of these stories, we believe are a stone, a foundation that proclaims God's story.

Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. He protects a woman from being stoned. He calls Peter, the

rock that he will build his church on, and when his body is laid to rest, the stone is rolled over the grave. Our faith is built on these stories of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, our Rock and Redeemer.

Our children have begun to work on some stones that we hope you will use along with our devotional packet as we journey to the cross. Our Wednesday Lenten services will also have the theme "Stones that Shout," and we will explore foundational stories (with rocks) from the Old Testament. This Lent, let's make one of our practices a communal one: to read together, pray together, share together, serve together—let's be stones that shout the good news of our Savior.

PEACE,

**ANNA FULMER**



• PRAY • FAST • GIVE •

# Youth Things



**Youth Retreat, Feb. 2-4:** Our youth will be joining Presbyterian youth from across Alabama for a weekend retreat at Living Rivers Camp. Please pray for them as they meet new friends and learn more about their faith!

**Youth Sunday: Mar. 11 at 10:30 am**—The youth are leading worship! Save the date for this meaningful service. We will also be springing forward, so make sure to set your clocks an hour earlier!

**Festival of Faith Children's Events:** Friday night, Feb. 23—While your parents are downstairs learning more from our awesome speaker, we will be upstairs packing bags for our community-wide Easter Egg Hunt. Join us!

Saturday, Feb. 24: Join our entire church as we do projects around our community. Two we suggest for families with children are our cleanup in the park or the beautifying of Mary B. Austin!

Sunday, Feb. 25, 9 am: While the parents are downstairs at 9 am, the children are invited to join us upstairs to continue packing Easter Egg bags for our community-wide Easter Egg Hunt.

**Donations Needed by Feb. 23:** We need candy and treats for our Easter Egg Hunt. Since our children will be packing the bags during Festival of Faith, we need donations by Feb. 23. You can drop them off at Anna's office.

## Children's Ministry:

Throughout the month of February, our children's Sunday school and Children's church lessons will be from the book of Mark. Each week we will be talking about ways our children can help others in our families, our church, and our communities. This will be leading up to several activities for the children during the Festival of Faith, February 23-25.

**February 4:** We will hear the story of Jesus healing a blind man. We will give thanks for not only the power of Jesus, but also his compassion.

**February 11:** Will be about being humble. We will talk about what this means and ways to be great by being kind and helpful to others.

**February 18:** We will learn about Jesus' love for children. We will also learn about how we are all members of God's family.

**February 25:** The lesson will be on the "Greatest Commandment." Children will discuss the two commandments that Jesus said were most important and should be a guide for our lives.

## Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

March 25, 9 am Children's Lent, Holy Week,  
and Easter Class (for parents too)

April 29, 9 am Presbyterian 101 for Kids (and parents)

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

Doris McGowan  
Joe Dan Dunnam  
Phyllis Trimble  
Tony (Nellie) Zoghby  
Mary Jane Armstrong

**From the following:**

Lewis & Barkley Shreve  
Cort & Susan Schlichting  
Dwain & Susan Luce  
Charles & Linda Langston  
Margaret Miller  
Anne Howard  
Ann & Forrest Wilson  
Mary Anne & Larry Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Dukes, Jr.  
Jacqueline Williams  
Buddy & Lucy Boykin  
Infant Mystics, Inc.  
J. Schley Rutherford Sr.  
B. White-Spunner  
Susie & Joe Abbott  
Alex & Molly Lankford  
Kim Peterson  
Courtney McGowin  
Janice & Marion Quina  
Bill & Anne Layfield  
Luann Rice

**Honoraria have been received for:**

Randy Sheets  
Ralph & Wanda Lawrence

**From:**

Sara Long  
James & Wendy Askew



## Adult Christian Education At a Glance: Spring Offerings

### **CURRENT ISSUES CLASS: SPRING 2018**

Current Issues: During Lent (in Feb. and Mar.) we will be exploring the theme of forgiveness. In April, they will be meeting with different people working with youth and children sharing the transformation it has had in their own lives.

**Jan. 7-28:** Bible 101,

*(Proverbs with Buz-during Lent)*

**Feb 4: Beth Reinert**, preview of Caregiver Conference content (Conference scheduled for Sat. Feb. 17, 9 am to 3 pm at SHPC)

**Feb 11: Countering Pharaoh's Production/Consumption Society Today** (Final part) (Walter Bruggemann) -- Tim Holston

**Feb 18:** Annual Church Meeting and Breakfast

**Feb 25:** Festival of Faith, (Church wide)

**Mar 4: Forgiveness 1** – Biblical and Theological Foundations for Forgiveness (From Forgiveness: A Lenten Study, by Marjorie J. Thompson) – Dale Hair

**Mar 11: Forgiveness 2** – Political Issues of Forgiveness and Communal Responses: What does it take to end a cycle of violence when countries, politics, and religion are all factors? – Dale Hair

**Mar 18: Forgiveness 3** -- Race and Reconciliation in Mobile – Merceria Ludgood, District One Mobile County Commissioner

**Mar 25: Forgiveness 4** – Personal Forgiveness – Bill Layfield

**Apr 1:** Easter! "Why the only future worth building includes everyone" Pope Francis, TED Talks.

### **BIBLE DISCOVERY CLASS**

Bible Discovery Class: Meets in the Conference Room at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. This class is for adults of all ages. In February, we are focusing on Faith in Action, looking at Scripture from Daniel, James, and more. March-May, we will switch gears exploring worship and acknowledging God.

### **"POP-UP" CLASSES MARCH - MAY**

**MARCH: RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN** This pop-up class will meet Mar. 4-25 in Room 7 in the Edington Building at 9:00 am on Sundays. It's for parents of children and youth of any age. This time around the class will be more discussion based.

**MARCH: PRESBYTERIAN 101** This class happens on an annual basis and helps people explore what it means to be Presbyterian. We will meet at 9 am Mar. 4-25 in Room 9 in the Edington Building. This class is geared towards new members and visitors but all are welcome.

**MAY: THE ENNEAGRAM** This class will meet in the Terry Room in the Edington Building at 9:00 am May 13, 20, and 27. We will be exploring the personality test called the Enneagram and its implications on our faith.

### **Potluck and Polity:**

The Session of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for **Sunday, February 18 at 9:00 AM** in the gym (Bullard Building). Join your church family for this congregation-wide potluck breakfast event as we hear reports on our church for the coming year including the presentation of the budget and election of the Officer Nominating Committee. The meeting will be suspended at 10:00 and will reconvene immediately after worship to briefly share information with those where who not able to attend the Sunday School portion of the meeting.



**We Rejoice.**

We rejoice with Fay Phillips in the marriage of her daughter, Fay Phillips, to Dudley Earle Dawson IV on January 6 in the sanctuary.

We rejoice with Bill and Nancy Oppenheimer in the birth of a granddaughter, Nancy Kimbrough Wood on January 21, Parents are Nancy and Staples Wood.

# RELIGIOUS ARTS News

## Historic Mobile Walking Tour.

The Religious Arts Committee invites you to a walking tour of historic downtown Mobile with Cart Blackwell on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Cart has been a well-received speaker at our summer Sunday School series and is a walking encyclopedia of Mobile history. We will gather at the Mardi Gras Park at the corner of Government and Royal at 4:00. At the completion of our tour all are invited to join for a Dutch treat dinner at a downtown restaurant (TBD). RSVP: by text or phone message to Judy Stout 251-401-0811 or email judypstout@mchsi.com (Mention if you would like to carpool from the church at 3:30 pm).

## Art in the Library

We thank Karen Spaulding for sharing her art with us in the library during November and December. Our new exhibit features Weezie Taylor's dynamic paintings and a beautiful pencil drawing. Weezie attended Vanderbilt University, Spring Hill College and the O'More School of Design. She later worked as an Art Therapist at the Physicians' Psychiatric Clinic in Mobile, Alabama.

Among the most pleasurable things she has been able to do have been the murals in the gymnasium and "David's Diner" in the Bullard Building of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. She also enjoys doing water color paintings, oil paintings and pencil drawings. She thanks you for taking the time to view some of her work.

Check our Religious Arts bulletin board, across from the conference room, for more events of local interest.



## We Share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy are with Cammie Belue in the death of her mother, Sandra Jenkins, on December 30; with the family of Vivian (Bib) Weeks in her death on January 1; and with Sue Martino in the death of her mother, Mary Jane Armstrong, on January 10 in Fairhope.

Church Calendar: February 2018	
1	Writing & Spirituality
2-4	Youth Retreat
4	Blood Drive
6	Committees
7	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 am.
9-10	Presbytery Meeting – Evergreen PC in Dothan
12-13	Church Closed for Mardi Gras
14	Circles Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service – 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
17	Care-Givers Conference
18	Communion
20	Church Breakfast – 7:00 am Session – 6:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
21	Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service – 12:15
23-25	Festival of Faith
27	Prayer Shawl Ministry
28	Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service – 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)

Statement as of December 2015	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$882,285
Year to date received	850,849
Other receipts	37,565
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$888,414</b>
Benevolences	57,417
Salaries and services	553,557
Programs	40,595
Office expenses	28,838
General & plant services	192,702
Other	36,700
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$909,809</b>
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$21,395

# Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

## Stamp of Support

A BIG thank you to everyone who has 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 box. Done.

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 and has successfully raised thousands of dollars for the Sunday School Project has, as of year's end 2017, raised \$29,000.

Give your stamps a second life and use them to help spread the gospel especially to children needing to know of God's love.

## PW Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meets Wednesday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on February 14 as follows:

**#1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room**

**#2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor**

**#3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor**

May 9, 2017 – Birthday Luncheon and Installation of Officers. Budget presented  
June 13-15, 2018 AL/MS Women's Conference, Brierwood PC, Jackson, MS  
August 2-5, 2018 Church-wide Gathering, Louisville, KY

### Breakfast Bible Study:

#### Tuesday, February 20

Come for a warm breakfast and a warm Bible study at 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This monthly event is open to all members and will be led by Dr. Buz Wilcoxon (with a little help from Andy Griffith).

### Church Blood Drive: Sunday February 4

The Blood Mobile will be in our parking lot from 8:30 AM to noon. Please donate and give the gift of life. For questions contact Amanda Harper (251-375-6855).

**Painting Pals** have resumed Tuesday sessions at 9:30-12:00 in the Bullard Building Craft studio. We supply paint and canvas, you bring photo or something you want to paint. Try something new in this new year!

## February Scripture Readings:

2/4	Mark 1: 21-39	Healing unclean spirits
2/11	Mark 9: 2-9	Transfiguration
2/18	Matthew 4: 1-11	Lent: Stones to Bread
2/25	Matthew 7: 24-29	Lent: A Foundation Built on Solid Rock



## **Pop-Tops Help Kids Learn!**

### **Backpack Meals Mission Feeds school children on weekends**

The Back Pack Program is currently serving **26 students** with nutritious, easy-to-prepare weekend meals. Food for Kids targets homeless children and children showing signs of chronic hunger. These children depend on school meals during the week, but they have little or nothing to eat on the weekends.

Please consider bringing to the Festival of Faith prepared entrees in individual pop-top cans or microwaveable containers (beans & franks, ravioli, spaghetti, stew, soup, mac & cheese, etc.). If you wish to make a monetary donation, write your check to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with a note that the check is for the Back Pack Ministry. Your help and assistance with this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

### **2018 SESSION AND DIACONATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **COMMITTEE**

#### **SESSION**

Clerk  
 Budget & Finance  
 Christian Education  
 Health & Safety  
 Personnel & Administration  
 Plant Services  
 Religious Arts  
 Stewardship  
 Welcoming & Belonging  
 Worship  
 Ushers  
 Capital Needs

#### **CHAIRS**

Norma Baymiller  
 Lewis Shreve  
 Luann Rice & Rudolph Hall (co-chairs)  
 Amanda Dexter  
 Chad Brown  
 Peter Pearce  
 Judy Stout  
 Kim Peterson & McCrary Otts (co-chairs)  
 Molly Wagner  
 Nancy Adams  
 Bill Layfield/Ryan Mahtani  
 Lawrence Hughey



#### **DIACONATE**

Fellowship  
 Mission  
 Congregational Care  
 Furnishings  
 Hospitality  
 Communications  
 Festival of Faith

Jodi Morvant  
 Vera Lynn Sheets  
 Sally Cobb  
 Kathy Fountain  
 Susan Tomlinson  
 Melissa Root  
 Nickelle Stoll

#### **OFFICERS**

Chair – Ernest Bulwinkle  
 Co-Chair – Fred Coats  
 Secretary – Fay Phillips





Spring Hill Presbyterian Church  
10 Westminster Way  
Mobile, AL 36608

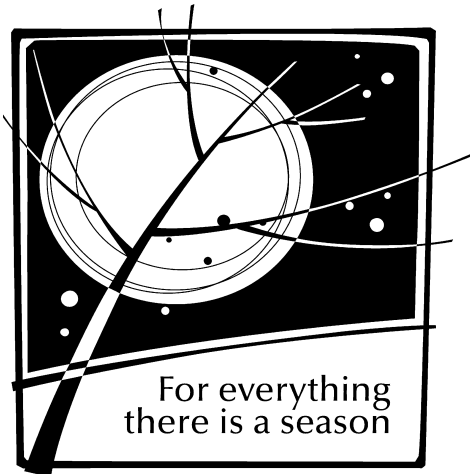
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*February*