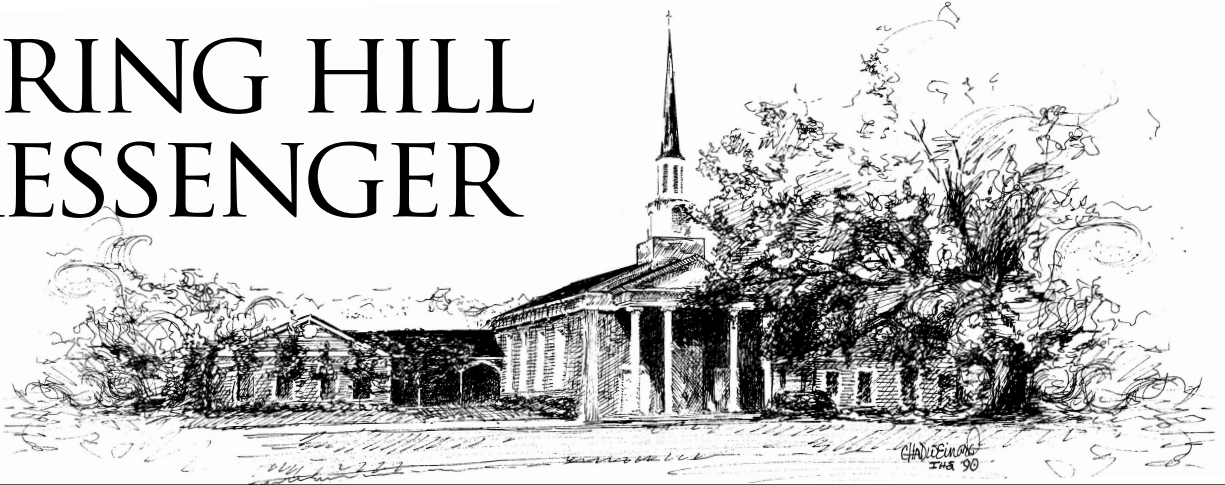


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

February 2020

GOD'S CALL TO ADVENTURE!

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

In January our church officers (elders and deacons) gathered for their annual retreat. We worked together to grow as a leadership team for our congregation, and we focused our vision on the work before us in 2020 and beyond. Our theme for the retreat was Adventure.

Since the middle of the 20th century Western civilization has been experiencing a major shift in the relationship between the church and society, between faith and power. For well over a millennium we had been existing in a geopolitical structure described as "Christendom," in which Christianity and the dominant culture were tightly co-mingled. Since the 1960's, however, this relationship has fractured as the rise of post-modernism and religious pluralism have intersected with rapidly changing social demographics, technology, and institutional structures. In a nutshell, the world is vastly different now than was in centuries past. The church can no longer assume as a given a position of privilege and power in our society. This change may bring some grief among us and some relief as well (not all that was done in the name of "good religion" in the past was in keeping with the gospel). Whether we celebrate or bemoan this change, it is here. The Question is what will we do with the time that is given to us.

Learning to navigate in this strange new land of a Post-Christendom context can seem scary, but it sets the stage for quite a grand adventure for communities of disciples who are faithfully daring and willing to plunge into the unknown—trusting that God will be there with them. Setting out on such an adventure was the guiding

metaphor for our Officers Retreat. We looked at biblical stories of adventures of faith to guide us on our way, such as:

The Unexplored/Perilous Country -Spies in Canaan (Numbers 13 & 14)

Hearing God's Call to Adventure – Consider Your Call 1 Corinthians 1

Setting Out on the Adventure – Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 12)

Leaving Old Possession Behind – Running the Race (Hebrews 12)

Building Community on the Journey – Pentecost (Acts 2)

Keeping Hope Alive – Hebrews in Exile (Jeremiah 29)

In the months to come, our church officers and committees have been challenged to experiment with "small-scale adventures" so that we as a church family can experience some of what these biblical ancestors lived out through their own adventures. We may try new things, build new relationships, learn more about each other...and, we might fall on our faces and fail while trying. That's ok--its part of the journey. Let me be clear, in asking our officers to try their hands at adventures, we're not abandoning our firm roots, but we are finding new ways to sharing the gospel ("the old, old story") in the different social context of our day.

I hope you'll join our church leaders on this grand adventure!

Grace and Peace,

Dear Friends,

Let the Chains Fall Away!

As I write this, I keep thinking about all of the wonderful things that are to come this February. At the beginning of the month, Sunday, Feb. 2 we will participate in Souper Bowl of Caring, a national campaign to end hunger in local communities. Then, the next week, Feb. 9, we will have a potluck breakfast where we can fellowship and hear about our 2020 budget. At the end of the month on February 26 (Ash Wednesday), we will kick off our Lenten series, "Release to the Captives." We will be looking at texts of imprisonment as we consider how Jesus was imprisoned and crucified by the Roman government. For us, as Christians, we know that our God is a God of liberation and "release of the captives." In fact, in Luke 4:18, the beginning of Jesus' ministry begins with these words read aloud by Christ, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." Christ understood his own ministry as releasing the captives, letting the oppressed go free. Lots of faithful people across time have been imprisoned for their faith, and we hope to hear not just the ancient stories of Scripture—the stories of Joseph; the exiles;

Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego; Paul; John of Patmos; and Jesus, but also the modern day stories of imprisonment, reading letters from prison by Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr, and more.

During Lent, we will have a 40 day devotional available for children and adults of all ages called "Breaking the Chains" from the Salt Project. Each day during Lent, we will break a link in a paper chain and practice disciplines of release, freedom, and resurrection. Here's what the Salt Project has to say, "Like the ancient stories of the Exodus, Lent is a journey from captivity to freedom. The 40 days of Lent are set aside to help us increase the freedom in our lives. To tell the truth about ourselves and our world, to change our hearts and our ways, and to participate in God's work of breaking chains of injustice, apathy, violence, despair—even the chains of death itself." I look forward to this resurrection work of breaking the chains of death, hate, and bondage as we begin our journey into Easter.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke

Youth Ministry

Feb. 2 Souper Bowl of Caring: It's that time of year

again...Souper Bowl! The youth will be collecting donations for McKemie Place Sunday, Feb. 2 before and after church. As we prepare to watch the Super Bowl Sunday night, we hope you will also remember those who are hungry!

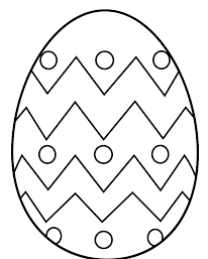
March 20: Confirmation Retreat—This fun retreat will meet at 4:30 pm at the church and travel to the Baymillers for dinner, fun, preparation for your Faith Statements. We will return to the church at 9:00 pm. It is mandatory that you are there!

March 22: Youth Sunday

April 26: Confirmation Sunday

May 3: High School Senior Breakfast and Graduation Sunday

Donations Needed: Check out our flyer to see what we need for the Easter Egg Hunt this year! Just a reminder the Easter Egg Hunt will be Thursday, March 26 from 5:30-7:00 pm.



Children's ministry news

Children will begin the month of February with a special Sunday school class called Children's Worship 101. Our class will meet in the Fellowship Hall and learn about the elements of our worship service. We will have activities and pack our worship bags. Parents are welcome to attend.

On February 9, children will hear the story from the book of Luke about Mary and Martha. We will discuss the choices Mary and Martha made, and the choices children can make to nurture their relationship with Jesus.

Children will read the story from the book of Mark about Jairus on February 16. Jairus begged Jesus to heal his daughter, we will discuss his faith and how we can keep our faith strong.

Our Children's Sunday school class and Children's Church class will hear from the book of Mark of how Jesus welcomed children. We will learn how Jesus encouraged his disciples to have the faith of a child. Children will discuss ways to be active and welcoming in our church.

Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

Thursday, March 26 Easter Egg Hunt from 5:30-7 pm

June 1-4 Vacation Bible School: Our Vacation Bible School is a little bit earlier this year! Our theme is New Testament Superheroes! VBS registration opens up online February 27, so stay tuned for more details!

Oh Baby!!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower following worship on March 15, in The Bullard Building, honoring Brian and Anna Duke. At that time, a church-wide gift will be presented to them.



Please join the celebration! If you would like to donate toward this gift, please submit a check payable to SHPC to the church office by March

1 (noting on the check that it is for the baby shower).

Do join us!

SPRING CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS!

Feb. 9: Potluck Breakfast and Congregational Meeting

March 8, 15, 22: Festival of Faith at 9:00 am

March 26 Easter Egg Hunt (Thursday) 5:30-7 pm

April 12: No Sunday School (Easter Sunday)

April 19: VBS Work Party (After Church)

Apr. 26: Confirmation Sunday

May 3: Senior Breakfast (High School) and Graduation Sunday

May 17: VBS Packing Party at 9 am

May 24: No Sunday School for Children, Youth, and Current Issues (Memorial Day Weekend)

May 31: Summer Series Begins

June 1-4: Vacation Bible School



We Rejoice

We Rejoice with Annie, Dario, and Michael Olivera and Susan Tomlinson on the birth of their sister and grandchild, Macia Lynn Mitchell on January 20, 2020.

Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

The Word in the Week- 2020

The Word in the Week: Join us Jan. 8-Feb.19 and again Apr. 22-May 13 as we explore the Gospel of Mark. 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. Our class will break during Lent and resume Apr. 22-May 13.



Memorials have been received for the following:

Peter Pearce
Sally Morrisette
John Hafner

Mary Ann & Robert Donnell
Tut & Harry Smith and Randy Smith
Jo Harrison

From the following:

Norma & Dick Baymiller
Buff & Ken Brown
Lila and Charlie Bailey
Marion Mathison
Molly Wagner
Forrest & Ann Wilson
Bobby and Sue McNeely
Jane Sims
Marion & Jamie Quina
Sandra and Ashley Hudson
Mit & Charlotte Kopf
Marcy Harris
Jay & Kelley Evers
Scott & Sarah Wright
James & Wendy Askew
Hilda Gewin
Nicholas Vrakelos
Robert Hernandez
Sue Jardine
Lynn & Jerry Hennig
Barkley & Lewis Shreve
Michael & Kim Enikeieff
Sara Long
Susan & Cort Schlichting
Day Circle
Sally & Mitch Cobb
Sherry & Bert Pierce
Roy & Sue Martino
Judy & Mark Weaver

Linda Hurt, Frank Preston, Susan Smith, Laura Barnes

Honoraria have been received for the following:

Ralph & Wanda Lawrence
SHPC Music Ministry

Adult Sunday School Continues Current Issues Continues with Inspiring Series

Current Issues Class:

Programming for Spring 2020

Feb 2: Understanding Poverty: Poverty and Homelessness as viewed through Mobile's downtown library, Sara McGough

Feb 9: Annual Congregational Meeting, including breakfast and fellowship. This will serve as adult Sunday School

Feb 16: Understanding Poverty: Poverty and the Bible, Rev. Anna Duke Fulmer

Feb 23: Understanding Poverty: Dale Hair (resource **Understanding Poverty** by Ruby Payne) Part II

Mar 1: Prism United, Margaret Jordan)

MARCH: PRESBYTERIAN 101 This class happens on an annual basis and helps people explore what it means to be Presbyterian. We will meet on Sundays, 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.



We Share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Helen Wells in the death of her sister, Mary Lanell Ward, on December 24 in Nashville; with Bob Sweeney in the death of his mother, Beverly Sweeney, on January 6 in Tuscaloosa; and with Bonney Irwin in the death of her mother, Jo Harrison, on January 7.

From the desk of Susan Richardson...

Accounting has a few reminders for the NEW YEAR:

Contribution envelopes are mailed to your home each quarter. They are great reminders to write your contribution and capital campaign checks and we are glad to provide them for your use.

If you use automated banking to submit your contributions, you may not want envelopes mailed to you any longer.

If you make your contribution once a month, the first quarter mailing should provide enough envelopes for the whole year...just change the date.

Just let Susan Richardson (251-342-1550 or Accounting@springhillpresbyterian.org) know and she will accommodate your request.

Payments for multiple purposes (regular contribution, tithe, capital campaign, flowers, etc.) can be made on one check, but PLEASE let us know the breakdown by fund and amount. If there is no notation on the check, note attached, or provided to us in a blue envelope, we assume it is your regular contribution.

If you use stock transfers to our Charles Schwab account for contributions, please notify Susan Richardson that it is coming and the fund you are sending it for. Schwab will not divulge the contributor.

Statement as of December 31, 2019

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 888,792
Year-to-date Received	\$ 830,298
Other Receipts	\$ 37,604
Total Receipts	\$ 867,902
Benevolences	\$ 58,692
Salaries and Services	\$ 523,190
Programs	\$ 35,797
Office Expenses	\$ 36,666
General and Plant Services	\$ 205,645
Other	\$ 34,774
Total Expenses	\$ 894,764
Excess Receipts over Expenses (Deficit)	\$ (26,862)

CHUCH CALENDAR: February 2020

1	Backpack for Kids
2	Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Photos after worship
4	Committees
5	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 10:00 am Congregational Care – 11:00 am Word in the Week – Noon
6	Arts From the Heart – Mary B. Austin Writing and Spirituality
9	Potluck Breakfast Congregational Meeting
10	Outreach
11	Breakfast Bible Study – 8:00 am
12	Circles Word in the Week - Noon
16	Scout Sunday Photos after worship
17	Newsletter Deadline – 9 am
18	Session – 7:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
19	Preschool Mardi Gras Parade Word in the Week – Noon
24-25	Church Office closed for Mardi Gras
26	Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service in Chapel – 12:15 pm (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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February