



SPRING HILL MESSENGER February 2023

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends either on Maundy Thursday, or at sundown on Holy Saturday (with the celebration of the Easter Vigil), or with Holy Week (beginning of Palm Sunday). It is much easier to keep up with the beginning of Lent in Mobile because of Mardi Gras. The season lasts forty days.

Lent is the shortened Old English for *lencten*, which means “spring season.” Similar words can be found in other languages (Dutch and German) which also refer to spring. The Greek word *sarakosti* (and its longer form *tessarakosti*) mean “fortieth.”

If you are wondering how that period of time can be only forty days, it is because the Sundays are not included. From the very early days in the church, we recognized that every Sunday is a little Easter.

This Lenten season we will celebrate each week on Wednesday with a chapel service (in the chapel) including communion. The services will also include scripture, prayers from both our *Book of Common Worship* and the *Common Order* book from the Church of Scotland, and a homily.

As Presbyterians we do not have a strong tradition of Lenten preparation, at least not compared to our Roman Catholic or Orthodox friends. When we think about giving something up for lent, we think about giving up something like chocolate. One year I gave up drinking real coffee. I still don't drink real (with caffeine) coffee. I buy a store brand decaf coffee. I called the consumer “hot line” number I found on the can to ask how much caffeine is in the decaf. There are two grams of caffeine in an eight ounce cup. That compares to 80 -- 100 in real coffee. After I settled into drinking decaf, I felt rather self-righteous about it. I was like those people who used to smoke and quit. The main reason I continue drinking decaf is that I realized I had been addicted to the caffeine. I don't want to be addicted to anything.

One of the characteristics that goes with being a theologian is that I can always see the other side. If I was a really good theologian I could see four sides to every issue. I settle for two. I think to myself that I don't want to be addicted because I want to be in control of my life. That's not a bad thing if the alternatives are nicotine or alcohol controlling my life. But what if my real issue is that I need to always be in control. I pondered that for a while and decided that was not it. What I finally figured out is that I don't need the caffeine. I wake up looking forward to going to work. I love what I do. I don't need caffeine to wake me up, or to “rev” me up. I get excited thinking about the church and all we can do. Just imagine: we are part of the kingdom of God.

For years now my Lenten discipline is to start something new, rather than give up something. Here is an easy one for this congregation: start praying with your Star Word as your guide.

I hope to see you in church.

Peace,
Cary

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE

There will be Wednesday Lenten communion services in the chapel each week at 12:00 p.m. starting on February 22.

Dear SHPC Friends,

You probably weren't expecting to hear from me during my maternity leave! I tried to prepare a few things in advance, so you could stay up to date with what is happening at SHPC. This February, I am excited by our Common Read study focusing on Amy Jill Levine's "*Signs and Wonders*." This will be different from our study last year, focusing much more deeply on Scripture. Dr. Levine is a professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University, and her book looks at Jesus' signs and wonders from Scripture. It has been amazing to see how this connects with our star words—I think especially during this interim season we need stars to guide us to Christ and to study how Jesus shows us signs and wonders reminding us of God's presence with us. I hope that as we look at Christ's signs and wonders from Scripture, we will see signs and wonders in our own lives too.

Beginning Feb. 26 and continuing throughout the season of Lent (until April 2), we will see Christ's wonders in our Common Read. We will divide into small groups of 8-10 people and facilitators will help guide conversations around Scripture and the book "*Signs and Wonders*". Amy Jill Levine will be in Mobile this fall at Dauphin Way Methodist, so stay tuned for a field trip this fall! Most groups will meet in person at the church on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, but we will also have a Sunday morning 9:00 am Zoom option, as well as a mid-week option. We have recruited facilitators. We have ordered books. Now we just need you to commit to joining us.

Here are my top six reasons why YOU should sign up for our Common Read:

To study and learn more in Scripture—as Christians we are called to be grounded in God's Word.

To get to know people in our congregation better (or even meet new people)!

To grow in your faith.

To see signs and wonders in your own life and in our church.

To do something together as a church family.

Because it will be fun! And God will be at work!

Ready to join the journey? Look for our sign-up table before or after church to sign-up and buy the book (\$10).

Speaking of building community and fostering connections, women don't forget to check out the information about **Women's Connection at Montreat, August 10-13**. Sign-up by Feb. 20, so that we can get a great house!

Grace and Peace,

Anna



Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, Feb. 12. Souper Bowl of Caring is a mission project of our youth where they collect change in soup pots before and after worship to support a feeding ministry. This year, they have chosen JagPantry which provides food to students in need at the University of South Alabama. Let's make a change by bringing some change to help hungry people in our community. Children and Youth will have soup pots at the exits of the Sanctuary following worship where you can give.

Montreat Women's Connection is August 10-13. The cost is about \$425 total-- \$200 for housing (paid directly to SHPC) and \$225 for conference registration. You can register with Montreat this month online. The \$200 housing payment is due to the church by Feb. 20, so that we can get a great house!

Alphabet Generations (X, Y, and Millennials too) Bible Study meets each week on Sundays at 5:00 pm in the Bullard Building. Feb. 5 we will have Bible study and dinner together. Feb. 12 and 26, we will have Fellowship time. Feb. 19 we will not meet because of Mardi Gras Break.



STAMPS

Friends, many of you have been faithful in tearing out stamps from your own correspondence and placing them into the collection box; I have trimmed them and sent them forward. In case this is all new information to you, there is an identified box in the Mission room to place your cancelled stamps. Any affixed stamp is appropriate. Please leave a border of more than ¼ inch on all sides so that I can trim them appropriately. I package the trimmed stamps into categories: 1st class, Christmas, Love, Pre-sorted/non-profit, and Foreign and send them to Florida where sorting into more specific categories is accomplished and all is sent to stamp brokers for sale in Asia. Profits made from this process are then forwarded to a publishing house in Argentina which is dedicated to writing and publishing Sunday School materials in Spanish. These materials are now being sold in 8 Latin American countries plus the United States, and Spain, and are used by over 40 Protestant denominations.



I spoke recently with one of the leaders where I send our stamp donations and she explained that in 2022, the Christian and Missionary Alliance (that's where profits from the stamp sales go) garnered \$35,000. The Alliance began in 1971, with collections from all over the US and Canada (I began collecting from SHP about 8 years ago), and this past summer profits for the Alliance passed the \$1 million mark! Who could imagine that the lonely little cancelled stamp could raise so much money? "Little is much when God is in it" is the motto of the Alliance and it has proven to be so.

Janie Sims

MEMORIALS

Jane Doty Bulwinkle Dr. Walter Hogan Peg Hyman
John Langus Barbara Maynard Sue McLean
Gladys Sheets Malcolm Sumrall Patsy Torbert
Helen Wells Forrest Wilson

Buff and Ken Brown	Sue Jardine	Mrs. Claude Warren
Barbara Drey	Janie Sims	Mr. & Mrs. John Laurendine
John & Alison Meacham	Sam Strada	James & Tanith Wilson
Amy and Charlie Powell	Jane Williamson	Wes & Elisa Baldwin
Jimmy and Renee Sage Jones	Cort & Susan Schlichting	Sherry Coats
Mitch & Sally Cobb	Fraser & Christy Reid	Ralph & Wanda Lawrence
Luann Rice	David & Barbara Hannan	Tad & Carolyn Wikle
Jane Williams	Casey & Palmer Whiting	Mary Ruth Andrews
Bruce & Sylvia Weinard	John Foster	Jacqueline Marrero
John & Phyllis Mosteller	Marcy Harris	Steve Reams
Neil & Stephanie White	Bruce Maynard	Gordon & Kay Korb
Ruth Fitzgerald	Lynn & Byron Ray	Melissa & Jim Root
Fred & Nancy Coats	Mr. & Mrs. McClure IV	Jain Ann Lane
John & Susan Hoitt	Janet Brown	Angela Payne
Dick & LiLa Pennington	Joan Myers	Robert & India Lacey
Lewis & Barkley Shreve	Denise & Richard Quarles	Tim & Ann Holston
Robert & Vicki Morrison	Doretha Casey Gilmore	Jimmie, Campbell, Perry & Spencer
Hal & Lynn Daugherty	Michael Baugh	Hatcher
Hilda Gewin	Emily & WG Quarles	SHPC Day Circle
	Dr. Marion & Malinda McMurphy	

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Neal Andrews, Cammie Belue, Kaye Bradshaw, Richard Britton, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Ruth Fitzgerald, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, Andrea Wiik Hinton, Wanda Lawrence, Bill Layfield, Steve Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Gordon Marsh, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Emma Munderloh, Mary Owen, Bernice Riedeburg, Cort Schlichting, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Carol Sumrall, Patricia Trammell Stinson, Pat Stoll, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Whorton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio; The children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program: Angelo, Eddie, Maylasia, & Milaishia.



THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Janie Sims on the death of Art Powell on December 13, 2022; the family of Dr. Walter L Hogan on his death December 26, 2022; Ernest Bulwinkle, on the death of his wife Jane Bulwinkle, on January 4, 2023; with Carol, Lynn & Ellen on the death of their husband and father, Malcolm Sumrall, on January 12, 2023; the family of Nicholas Vrakelos on his death January 16, 2023; the family of Patsy Torbert on her death January 21, 2023; Margaret Jordan on the death of her mother, Sally Eckles, on January 22; and Ralph Lawrence on the death of his wife, Wanda, on January 23, 2023.

Statement as of December 31, 2022

Total Annual Budgeted Rev- \$ 863,515

Year-to-date Received \$ 793,791

Other Receipts \$ 52,370

Total Receipts \$ 846,162

Benevolences \$ 52,208

Salaries and Services \$ 502,903

Programs \$ 28,860

Office Expenses \$ 26,270

General and Plant Services \$ 244,758

Other \$ 28,147

Total Expenses \$ 883,144

Excess Receipts over \$ (36,983)

Save the Dates

March 18: Open Play, 9:00-10:00 am

March 30: Easter Egg Hunt

Storytime at 5:30 pm,

Hunt at 5:45 pm

Don't forget to order your Easter
Lilies beginning March 1.

PNC

The PNC would like to thank the congregation for completing the recent survey. We had a 21% response rate, which is great! We also appreciate all the participation in the listening sessions, (Feb. 5) which combined with the survey results will aid in the completion of the Ministry Information Form (MIF). Please continue to pray for us and we seek discernment in this very important process.

JOIN THE SANCTUARY AUDIO - VISUAL TEAM.

You don't see them, but they are there---- in the booth in the sanctuary balcony, running the sound and steaming for our worship services and other events, such as memorial service. New members of the team are needed to share the schedule. Training will be provided. To find out more, or to join, contact Randy Sheets at the church (rsheets@shpc.us) or talk to William Stoll in the booth.

Children's Ministry Opportunities

KidsLead is for children 3K to 5th grade at 9:00 am upstairs in the Bullard Building. During this hour our kids will learn a guiding Scripture then engage in Mission Projects. In February, KidLead will be led by the Patterson's,

Feb. 5: Backpack for Kids

Feb. 12: Make cookies

Feb. 19: No KidLead

Feb. 26: Make cards.

BLAST is for children grades 3K-5th grade. BLAST and Crossroads happens on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month from 11:30-12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet this month Sunday, Feb. 12 and 26 and will be continuing the story of David.

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School, June 19-22: Vacation Bible School kicks off Monday, June 19 and will be through Thursday, June 22 from 9:00-11:30 am. We are starting to recruit volunteers, so if you are interested in helping talk to Dianne Oveson mobiledi@bellsouth.net. Our theme is Passport to Peace. Registration for VBS will begin March 26.

Youth Ministry

Montreat Youth Trips: The deadline for Montreat has past. If you haven't signed up but want to, please contact Susan Richardson if you are planning on attending. Montreat High School is for youth who are currently in 8th-12th grades and will be June 3-10, 2022. Middle School Montreat is for youth who are currently in 5-8th grades and will be July 19-23, 2023. Cost is \$310. A \$100 deposit was due by Dec 1 (we are hoping to get those before Anna has Baby Duke #2). The remainder (\$210) is due Mar. 5.

Youth Ministry Dates

Feb. 5: Youth Group, 6:00-7:30—writing Youth Sunday liturgy.

Feb. 12: Crossroads, 11:30-12:30—hymns for Youth Sunday

Feb. 19: No evening activities because of Mardi Gras Break.

Feb. 26: Crossroads, 11:30-12:30, Youth Sunday finale

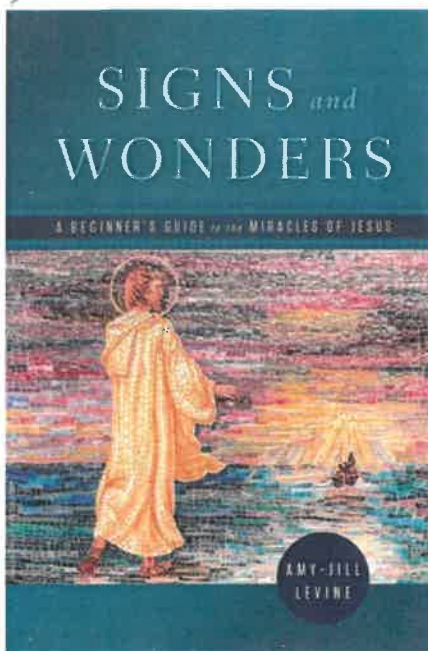
Mar. 5: Youth Group, 6:00-7:30—Youth Sunday finale continued

Mar. 12: Crossroads, 11:30-12:30, finishing pieces to Youth Sunday

Mar. 19: Youth Group, 6:00-7:30 pm, **Mandatory Youth Sunday rehearsal**

March 26: Youth Sunday, practice at 9:00 am

To subscribe to our Remind and receive weekly text messages, send a text to: 81010 and text this message: @springhill.



Common Read Small Groups Return for Lent (Feb. 26-April 2)

New Book, New Groups!

Last year was a big success with around 80 people participating in our church-wide Common Read for the 40 Days of Lent. One of the things people commented on most favorably was getting to know those in their small group so much better.

While we won't do this *every* year, as we come back to in-person worship on a more regular basis, this seems like a perfect way to engage again – a second helping of deep learning and fellowship, this time focused on scripture.

What you need to know:

THE BOOK: *Signs and Wonders: A Guide to the Miracles of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine.

“How can these old miracle stories speak good news to our lives in this time and place and invite our own healing and transformation along the way?” Rev. Richard Simpson

Note: Author Amy-Jill Levine will be the Dill Lecture Series featured speaker in August, 2023.

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS:

Five Sunday morning groups in person from 9:00-10:00, in various rooms.

One Sunday morning Zoom group for those who prefer virtual participation.

One mid-week group for those who prefer a non-Sunday option. (Day TBD)

SIGNING UP:

Jan. 15 – Feb. 12: Recruiters will be stationed in the narthex and the hallway with sign-up forms and books to sell (\$10 per book).

Your assignment to a group will not be made until after Feb. 12. Please stay open-minded about getting to know new group members once again.

CO-FACILITATORS:

New leaders are stepping into the role of co-facilitators this time, with only a few exceptions.



You will be assigned to a group based on the participation option you select; but you will be with different people from last year.

**Join us as we discover new meaning and understandings of the miracles of Jesus
in conversation with our friends, old and new!**

Goodwill CDC Scholarship Fund

SHPC Mission Committee would like to establish an on-going scholarship for the Goodwill Gulf Coast Child Development Center on SHPC's campus and is seeking donations to help students in need. GWCDC has reached out to us because scholarship support is needed immediately for a Central American student who does not qualify for gov't aid and will not be able to continue this needed education without tuition assistance. This student has blossomed at GWCDC, is learning English as a second language, is an excellent model for other special needs students, and will go to kindergarten in the fall. Though this will be an on-going scholarship project, the immediate need is funding of \$90/week for approx. 30 weeks (\$2,700). If you are willing to contribute any amount, great or small, to this scholarship fund, please make your check payable to SHPC, attn. Susan Richardson, and note GWCDC TUITION SCHOLARSHIP in the "for" line. Scholarship donations will be tax deductible. Questions: contact Megan Rubio, 703-672152, megstubio@yahoo.com or Vera Lynn Sheets 251-454-6846, sheetsvl@aol.com; or Susan Richardson @SHPC 251-342-1550.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Worship starts at 10:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday Schools are at 9:00 AM</p> <p>Blast/Crossroads — 11:30</p> <p>Alphabet Generations/Choirs 5:00 p.m.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>PWCT</p> <p>Children's Chapel</p> <p>Chancel "Choir"</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Tai Chi</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Worship—Communion</p> <p>Common Read Training</p> <p>Listening Session</p> <p>Alphabet Generations/Choirs</p> <p>Dinner/Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Art For All</p> <p>MSC</p> <p>Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Committees</p> <p>Painting Pals</p> <p>MSC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Day Circle</p> <p>Children's Chapel</p> <p>Night Circle</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Tai Chi</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Souper Bowl</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>BLAST/Crossroads</p> <p>Alphabet Generations/Choirs</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Art For All</p> <p>MSC</p>	<p>14</p> <p>MSC </p> <p>Session</p> <p>Diaconate</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Children's Chapel</p> <p>Congregational Care</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Tai Chi</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p></p> <p>Mardi Gras Holiday</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Children's Chapel</p> <p>Lenten Communion Service</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Tai Chi</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>BLAST/Crossroads</p> <p>Alphabet Generations/Choirs</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Art For All</p> <p>MSC</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Common Read</p> <p>MSC</p>				