



# SPRING HILL MESSENGER *June/July 2022*

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

As I write this final newsletter article, I am keenly aware that the anxiety around transition is thick in the air. We have packed our house, moved our belongings, and are navigating the logistics of our family being in multiple locations. At the church, many committees and other groups are moving into a summer break, knowing that the fall will bring some new patterns and new people into the leadership of our congregation. As we wade through these days of liminal space, there are three things I want to address with you:

**1. Timeline:** Here is a general overview of what to expect in the coming weeks.

June 5 (Pentecost)- Our Faith & the Arts Summer Sunday School series begins.

June 12 (Trinity Sunday)- My last Sunday in the pulpit.

June 15 – My last day in the office.

June 15-30 – Stephen Ministers are prepared to make pastoral care visits if needed and local pastors are prepared to officiate any funerals that may occur.

June 19 & 26- Rev. Bob Madsen, our Regional Presbyter, will preach in worship.

July 1 – Dr. Cary Speaker begins his service as our Interim Pastor.

July 3- Dr. Speaker's first Sunday in the pulpit.

July 10 – Lawrence Hughey will preach for this year's Spring Hill Sunday.

August 15- Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke, our Associate Pastor, returns from sabbatical.

September 11- Rally Day kicks off the fall programs at church.

**2. Ethics of Pastoral Transition:** While the timeframe above gives you a sense of *when* things are occurring around this time of transition, I also want to say a word about *how* we will navigate these waters. First, let me assure you that I will continue to be completely focused on serving as your Senior Pastor until my last day in the office (June 15). This includes not only ordinary pastoral responsibilities, but also documenting and passing on as much institutional information as possible for future church leaders to access.

Once the transition occurs and I am no longer serving as your Senior Pastor, please know that I will still keep you in my prayers, in my heart, and in my memory. I will look forward to following your success as a church family, to seeing how your kids and grandkids grow, and to rooting with you (or against you) when our favorite teams take the field. From afar, the bonds of friendship will remain.

However, the pastoral nature of our relationship will no longer remain. This means that I will NOT be returning to serve in pastoral roles such as officiating weddings, baptisms, or funerals. While emphasizing and maintaining this clear boundary may sound harsh or unloving, it is actually the exact opposite. BECAUSE I love this church family so much, I will not get in the way of the next Senior Pastor (and Interim Pastor) beginning their ministry on firm footing. BECAUSE you welcomed me in with wide open arms, I will not deprive the next Senior Pastor of the opportunity to receive the same warm hospitality. It is unfortunately the case that sometimes pastors have such a hard time letting go that their desire to please others and say "yes" after a transition can stunt a congregation's growth under new leadership. While I deeply love so many of you in this church family, after this transition, that love will need to be expressed in the role of a friend, not that of a pastor. I have spoken to our Session about this important ethical boundary, and they have heard from the leadership of our presbytery as well about how clarity concerning these matters is an important gift to the successful beginning of your next Senior Pastor's ministry. I have already begun the process of lovingly saying "no" to folks when they ask about upcoming baptisms, weddings, and (thankfully, yet to be planned) funerals. So, please know in advance that we will continue to be clear when such questions arise in the future.

**Holy Memory:** Finally, as we move through these days of saying goodbyes and final moments together, know that I am so full of gratitude for the holy moments that we have shared over these past eight and a half years together. I will hold these memories forever. As you've heard me say (far too many times) "*Our memories become the mentors of our hopes.*" Thus, full of holy memories, my hopes for the future of this church family are strong. Because I remember how God has molded you throughout your years, I am hopeful that God will continue to call you to be a loving, serving, thinking, singing, leading, and learning family of faith. I can't wait to see what God has in store for you next!

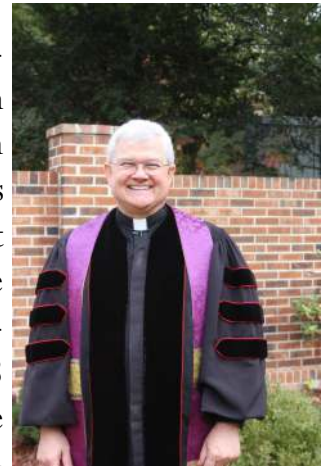
Grace and Peace,



Buz Wilcoxon, Senior Pastor

## Dr. Cary G. Speaker

I grew up in Birmingham; graduated from Woodlawn High School and Samford University. After graduating from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Ga in 1976 with a DMin, I returned to Birmingham for Clinical Pastoral Education at the Baptist Medical Center – Montclair. My first call was to Roanoke, VA as an associate pastor for Christian Education and Youth Ministry. Sally and I met and married while in VA. In 1981, two weeks after we were married, we moved to Tuscaloosa, AL, where I was a staff chaplain at DCH Regional Medical Center. Both of our sons were born during the Tuscaloosa years. In 1988 we moved to Hawaii. I became the Director of Hospital Ministry at the Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu. In 1992 I was called back to Birmingham as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Counseling at Independent Presbyterian Church. Ten years later I was called to be the pastor of the Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. In 2015 I retired from the Mountain Brook church and started doing interim work. I have done interims in Huntsville, Birmingham and Mobile. I was the interim pastor for the Government Street Church before Rebekah Abel Lamar became the pastor. I was then the interim Regional Presbyter for South AL and MS Presbyteries. In May 2021, I became the interim pastor for Oakmont Chapel in Birmingham.



One of the blessings of being the interim presbyter for South Alabama was getting to know Buz and Anna; and to become acquainted with the Spring Hill Church. I fell in love with Mobile and the hospitality of the people. I am looking forward to ministry with the congregation during this transition. You are a healthy church with a bright future. Of course, much of that is due to the leadership of your clergy. Buz will be missed. But the best way a congregation can honor its former pastor is to continue the mission and ministry that was begun while he was with you.

I will move and get settled the last week of June. I am excited to be in worship with you on July 3, 2022.

Dear SHPC Family,

I wanted to go ahead and let you know some exciting news. We will have a new member joining our flock in December. Yes, baby Jesus will be arriving, but so will Baby Duke #2! Brian, Anders, Buster, and I are so excited to welcome a new family member. I wanted to tell you all this news in person but did not want to wait until after I am back in August from my sabbatical—by then it will be a little obvious!

I know that the timing of this child is a little crazy in our interim time, but also feel like God is reminding me that we cannot wait for the “perfect” time—God makes a way in times when the time is “not right”—and we learn to make room in our hearts for all kinds of incongruities: joy and trepidation, new beginnings and goodbyes, grief and gratitude. I found out the news of this child the day before Buz told me he was leaving, so in many ways I have been carrying this new beginning and ending together.

June 12 we will be saying goodbye to Buz and the Wilcoxon family. I hope that you will join us for a reception/lunch following worship. I am planning to be back for this, since it will be our last time worshipping together with Buz and look forward to seeing you.

At this point in my sabbatical, we are taking a road trip to Chicago stopping in Nashville and Indianapolis along the way. I served Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis for two years before being called to Spring Hill, so I am excited to see old friends and share with Brian and Anders my favorite places.

I already know what a loving, faithful, and supportive congregation you are by watching you with Anders. I am excited to see how you will fulfill your baptismal promises to this new child too! I can't wait to get back to SHPC and continue to do ministry together sharing our joys, grief, love, fears, hope, doubts, and prayers together. I miss you my friends!

Love,

Anna Fulmer Duke

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

Montreat High School  
June 4-11

Montreat Middle  
School  
July 20-23



SAVE THE DATE

- ◆ *The Wilcoxon farewell Luncheon*
- ◆ *June 12*
- ◆ *Bullard Building after worship*

## Montreat Trip Meeting

**Montreat Middle School:** Youth (and parents of youth attending) and chaperones attending Montreat Middle School, join us **July 17 at Government Street Presbyterian at 11:45** (following church) for a meeting to go over last minute details for our trip. It is being led by Alexandra Hudson, Associate pastor of GSPC.

## Save the Date

**Youth Bay-Treat, August 6-7,  
Grades 6th-12.**

## Art in the Library

The Library Art for June will be representative of work done by our **Art for All** group that meets on Monday mornings. **Art for All** is an inclusive arts education program for adults. The goal of the program is to bring people of all abilities together to express their creativity and develop their skills in a variety of art media including acrylics, graphics, watercolors, clay and more. If you would like to purchase any of the art pieces or volunteer please call Carolyn Greene at 251-422-5412.

If you have any questions or improvements, please call Bonney Irwin at 251-680-2060.

## Ways to Show Compassion through Vacation Bible School

### DONATE: Your time...

Decorating: Work Party: Sun. June 26 (9:00 am) in Gym

Clean-Up on the afternoon of June 30 (11:30-2 pm)

Set-up Thank You Pizza for Volunteers on Thursday morning 11-12

During VBS June 27-30

By Praying!

Items: We will be creating care packages for women at **McKemie Place** so would love:

New white bath towels and washcloths & sample size shampoo and conditioner

### For VBS

200 Small Water Bottles

300 Small, Colorful Paper Plates

4 large cartons of individual packets of Goldfish

4 Costco or Sam's Boxes of Granola Bars

3 Bags of Apples

Purple Seedless Grapes & Green Seedless Grapes (rinsed and pulled apart from stems)—

Delivered to Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun. June 26

150 Regular Size Water Bottles

3 Costco/Sam's Sized Box of Fruit Snacks

7 bags Rold Gold Pretzels

60 String Cheeses



If you are not interested in buying items, checks can always be made out to SHPC. Make the memo line: VBS. To avoid duplication, sign-up to donate specific items on the Christian Education bulletin board. All items (excluding perishables) may be delivered to Susan Tomlinson's office no later than June 17.

# MEMORIALS

*Peg Heyman*

*Rebecca Jones*

John & Suzanne Adams  
Charles & Julie Walker

## Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Neal Andrews, Cammie Belue, Everett Bolling, Levi Bolling, Kaye Bradshaw, Frank Callahan, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Matt Coleman, Ruth Fitzgerald, Amy Britton Foshee, Ali Fry, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Jackie Martin Haskew, Charles Langston, Lauren Henson, Jane Hughey, Charles Langston, John Langus, Bill Layfield, Celia Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Sara Martin, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Charmein Moser, Emma Munderloh, Mary Owen, Carol Rawl, Bernice Riedeburg, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Malcolm Sumrall, Patricia Trammell Stinson, Pat Stoll, Gayle Underwood, Nicholas Vrakelos, Babs Warren, Helen Wells, Louis Williams, Ann Wilson, Forrest Wilson, 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 SYMPATHY of the congregation are Amy Walton on the death of her mother, Patty Lawrence, in Jackson Tennessee on May 5, 2022.

### **Statement as of April 30, 2022**

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 863,515
Year-to-date Received	\$ 299,021
Other Receipts	\$ 10,402
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 309,423</b>
Benevolences	\$ 19,533
Salaries and Services	\$ 170,809
Programs	\$ 6,913
Office Expenses	\$ 7,697
General and Plant Services	\$ 67,207
Other	\$ 10,766
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 282,925</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over (under )Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 26,498</b>





# 2022 *Faith* AND *THE Arts* Summer Sunday School

**JUNE 5** **George Sinclair**, GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN *"Look Around: A Christian Faith for the Twenty-First Century"*

**JUNE 12** **Robin Krchak**, MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS *"And Then You Can Grow A Garden"*

**JUNE 19** **Diane McCaskey**, FAMILY PROMISE *"Faithful Friends" based on Luke 5:17-26"*

**JUNE 26** **Gabriella Saab**, AUTHOR *"Encountering Suffering: Resistance During World War II"*

**JULY 10** **William Strickland**, MOBILE BAYKEEPER

**JULY 17** **Daryn Glassbrook**, MOBILE MEDICAL MUSEUM *"The Mobile Medical Museum, Sixty Years and Counting"*

**JULY 24** **Garrett Williamson**, PERSONAL EDGE FITNESS *"The Lie of Food"*

**JULY 31** **Carolyn Greene**, ART FOR ALL

**AUGUST 7** **Patrick Jacobs, Kat Hedlund, and Randy Sheets** - CONCERT *"Sacred music for Baritone and Soprano"*

**AUGUST 14** **Rabbi Silberman**, CONGREGATION AHAVAS CHESED *"Exploring the Hebrew Scriptures"*

**AUGUST 21** **Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke**, ASSOCIATE PASTOR *"Playing and Praying: My Sabbatical Journey"*

**AUGUST 28** **Spirituality and Writing Group** *"This I Believe"*



10 Westminster Way  
Mobile, AL 36608



251-342-1550  
<https://shpc.us>

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN

***Kathryn Louise Rice***

*Graduating from Baker High School  
Attending the University of South Alabama*

***Jay Harton Murray***

*Graduating from UMS-Wright  
Attending the University of Alabama*

***William Hannon Stoll***

*Graduating from Davidson High School  
Attending the University of South Alabama*

## HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES OF SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN TO NOTE:

***Zack Aggen***

*University of South Alabama  
Doctor of Medicine*

***Mary Sterling Brown***

*Samford University  
Bachelor of Science in Math & Computer Science*

***Samantha Fry***

*University of Alabama Birmingham  
Master of Public Health*

***Ellen Mitchell***

*University of South Alabama  
Master of Music in Vocal Performance*

***Amy Patterson***

*University of South Alabama  
Master of Arts in Creative Writing*



# Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School



June 27-30, 9:00-11:30 am

K4-5th grade (must be 4 or older)

To register go to [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us)

10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL • 342-1550

Deadline to register is June 1, 2022.



# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chancel Choir	2 AA	3	4  AA	
5 Worship- Pentecost Communion	6 Outreach	7 Presbytery Meeting Committees	8 Chancel Choir	9 AA	10	11  AA
High		School	Montreat	June 4-11		
12 Worship Trinity Sunday  Farewell Lunch for the Wilcoxon's	13	14  Session Diaconate	15 Congregational Care Committee  <u>Buz last day</u>	16 AA	17	18  AA
19 Worship Father's Day	20	21	22 Chancel Choir	23- Writing Group Presbyterian Home Gala AA	24	25  AA
26 Worship	27  VBS	28  VBS	29 Chancel Choir  VBS	30  VBS AA		

# ▶ July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						2
						AA
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship	Office Closed			AA		AA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Spring Hill Sunday Worship Reception for Interim				AA		Founders Day
						AA
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship- Communion			<u>Montreat</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>July 20- 23</u>	
				AA		AA
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship				AA		AA
31						
Worship						