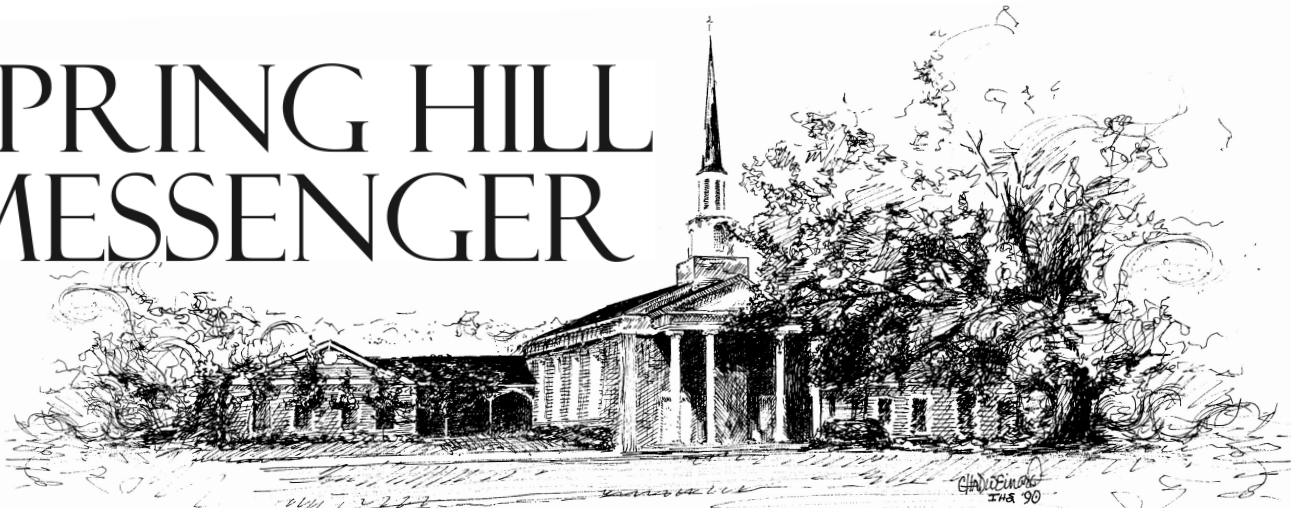


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 81, Number 2, March, 2017

FAITH UNDER REPAIR

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

If you have set foot in the church building during the last few weeks you have seen signs that we are "under repair." After more than a year of diligent study and planning by our Capital Needs Committee, we have begun a much-needed replacement of our HV/AC systems for the main building and Edington building. While there are certainly adjustments that we have to make to work around this project, it has been great to see the way that these plans are finally coming together.

With the building literally "under repair," it has had me thinking about the ways that our lives of faith are often "under repair" as well. Rather than being static and stuck as people of faith, we are called to journey together in ways that lead us to grow into more mature disciples. Sometimes this process of maturing in the faith means replacing patterns and systems in our lives that are old and worn out (like our 30 year old cooling tower that is about to fall apart). Sometimes it means going beyond what is on the surface so that we can access and address what's really going on in our lives (like the removal of the ceiling tiles in the hallway so that the hidden air ducts can be fixed). Sometimes it mean setting new boundaries in our lives to protect what can easily be damaged if ignored (like wrapping the organ with plastic to keep out harmful dust particles). Certainly, maturing in our faith is not something we can do alone. It is a process in which we must rely on our brothers and sisters in Christ to share the load and support one another (much like the Capital Campaign that we are launching to share together in making this project a reality).

Regardless of our age or experience as Christians, the truth is, we are always "under repair"—always in need of God's

redeeming grace in Jesus Christ that transforms us into God's new creation. In this season of Lent, Christians around the globe will join in a time of intentional self-reflection, repentance, and renewal as we welcome Christ's reconciling work in our lives and in our world. In this newsletter

you will find information about how we will celebrate the season of Lent through a Sunday morning Sermon series on resisting the empires of the world, a Wednesday worship series in the Celtic Christian tradition, and an outstanding Festival of Faith that will challenge our minds and put us to work serving our community. All of these are part of the repair work of maturing in our faith.

As Presbyterians, we celebrate this process of repair as part of our very identity—not just during one season, but throughout our entire lives.

We call ourselves "the Church Reformed and always being reformed by the Holy Spirit." If you haven't done so yet, I hope you will join us this month for our Presbyterian 101 class where we will examine some of that reforming process in our history and identity. You will find more information about his class in the pages that follow.

In the days and weeks ahead, as we journey through the season of Lent and a time of major repairs to our building, I hope you will look for signs of repair in your own life and in our world. Rather than avoiding these moments, let us face them head on as part of what it means to mature in our faith, growing together into "the full measure of the stature of Christ."

Grace and Peace,

"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." -

Ephesians 4: 12-13

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship Services



On Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 12:15 in the Chapel we will begin our series of mid-week Lenten worship services in the Celtic tradition with liturgy from Iona, Scotland. During these Wednesday worship services (from March 1 through April 5) our pastors will offer homilies based on readings from the book of Revelation, which will also be our featured scripture for the Festival of Faith. Organ music for meditation begins each Wednesday at noon.

The wearing of ashes is a powerful biblical image of repentance. Thus, for many Christians, the imposition of ashes during worship on Ash Wednesday has become an important beginning to the season of Lent. Our Worship Committee has approved offering the imposition of ashes to those who desire it on Ash Wednesday. Some of us may be unfamiliar with this Christian tradition, and others of us may have thought of this as a practice only done by Roman Catholic churches. In truth, many Protestants, including Presbyterians, have embraced this biblical practice. This portion of the Ash Wednesday service will be structured so that those who wish to receive ashes can do so, but no one will be excluded from fully participating in the service.

2017 LENTEN SUNDAY SERMON SERIES Gathering Around the Table: Resisting the Empires

On Sunday mornings during the Season of Lent, our worship services will be built around the great biblical theme of resisting the empires of the world. From the Hebrews fleeing slavery in Egypt to the early Christians' persecution by the Romans, the pages of scripture are filled with stories of people of faith who refuse to abandon their trust in God, even when the earthly empires do all they can to stop them. Sometimes this faithful resistance has a prophetic "in your face" feel, and at other times it is shown in more subtle and subversive ways. The Apostle Paul reminds us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." (Romans 12:2) That's precisely

what we'll be doing during this season of Lent. Each Sunday we will explore a story of resistance and its meaning for us today. As we journey through these weeks, we will place different items on our communion table that connect with the particular story for that week. A take-home intergenerational Lenten Devotional has been prepared that allows everyone in our church family to connect these themes from worship to their daily lives. By the time we reach the end of Lent, we will have set the table for the greatest and most profound resistance to the empires of the world: Christ's entry into Jerusalem, his final meal with the disciples, his death, and ultimately his resurrection!

March 5 – Exodus: The Hebrews Fleeing the Empire of Egypt

March 12 (Youth Sunday)—Beatitudes: Countercultural Resistance

March 19 (Festival of Faith)—Revelation: The Church's Hope Beyond the Empire

March 26 – Rizpah and David: Mourning as Resistance

April 2 – Acts: Discipleship as Turning the Empire Upside Down

April 9 (Palm/Passion Sunday) – Holy Week: The Cross and the Empire





Music for Meditation Begins on Ash Wednesday at Noon

Again this year our Wednesday mid-day Lenten services will be preceded by fifteen minutes of music. In addition to organ music, on several occasions solo singers and instrumentalists will contribute to this music, which begins at noon (watch the bulletin each week for the schedule of participants.) Vera Lynn Sheets will be singing on Ash Wednesday.

Although we call this "Music for Meditation," we shouldn't think that the music will necessarily be mood music that is consistently quiet, calm, innocuous, and easy to ignore while one reflects on spiritual things, although of course reflection on spiritual things is obviously good. I prefer to think of meditation in this context as intentionally removing oneself from daily routines and activities, calming one's mind and spirit, losing oneself in the music, opening and giving oneself to the sounds and rhythms. Some of the music will be based on hymns that we know, and thus we will be reminded of their words and led to ponder them. In fact, there will on occasion be a solo singer from our Chancel Choir who will sing verses of the hymn on which the organ music is based (especially when the hymn is not familiar.) But other music will be freely composed, not based on any pre-existing tune or related to any hymn text and thus, one might live for a few minutes in a world that is totally and only music. Some of the music is quiet and calm, some is not; in fact, there is substantial variety in character and mood in our Lenten organ music. Some of it may be quite animated and vigorous. I look forward to playing our chapel's beautiful Brown Wallace Memorial pipe organ on these Lenten Wednesdays, as well as welcoming participation of other musicians-- and I invite you to enter this world of musical meditation and the worship



Memorials have been received for the following:

Mary Beth Culp
Mitchell Barnett
Alex Turnbull
Harriett Pennington
Kate Shreve Barnes
Helen Davidson
Dr. Angus McBryde

From the following:

Jeff & Sandra Taylor
Venetia Prince
Sue Jardine
Mr. & Mrs. John Cleverdon
Charles & Linda Langston
James & Wanda Dobie
Dr. & Mrs. Russell Goodlow, Jr
Carolyn Casteel
Irene McDonald
Margaret Miller
Cort & Susan Schlichting
Allen & Carolyn Pate
Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeLaney
Malcolm & Carol Sumrall
Luann Rice
Susan Abrams
Ruth Fitzgerald
Sam Strada
Mitch & Sally Cobb
Mark & Judy Weaver
Jim & Nancy Adams

LILIES AT EASTER

Lilies will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship on Easter Sunday, April 16. The plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Congregational Care Committee in the name of the church following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on the 16th. Cost will be \$18.00. Please call, email the church or fill out the form in the hall if you wish to place a memorial lily for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Deadline is April 3.



Serve & Grow

PRESBYTERIAN 101:



Are you new to the Spring Hill Presbyterian Family? Have you recently joined or are you considering joining the church? Have you been a visitor or member for some time but want to brush up on what it means to be Presbyterian? If so, this class is just for you!

Presbyterian 101: Our Family of Faith will introduce participants to the Presbyterian tradition and to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in particular. While the class is crafted with visitors and new members in mind, all are welcome to join us as we ask questions and listen for answers together. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon will serve as the primary teacher for the series, but other members of the SHPC community will be involved as well. Please join us as we learn more about our family of faith. This class will meet upstairs in the Bullard Building during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00 am Sunday mornings).

March 5	The Presbyterian Tradition Part 1
March 12	The Presbyterian Tradition Part 2
March 19	No Class because of Festival of Faith
March 26	SHPC Members and Ministry
April 2	SHPC History and Mission
April 9	Presbyterian Worship & Patterns

BIG BROTHERS/ BIG SISTERS UPDATE

Through our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters at Mary B. Austin and E. R. Dickson schools, we now have nine "littles" matched with members of our congregation who serve as "bigs". Stop by the bulletin board near Sallie's office to meet our "littles". Please join in praying for these children by name by using the prayer below. If you are interested in serving as a "big", contact Barkley Shreve for more information about how to enroll. By starting the process now, you will be ready to begin meeting with your "little" in the Fall.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you remember with loving care our Little Sisters and Little Brothers at E. R. Dickson and Austin Schools. Bless these children and their families, friends, teachers and mentors so that they may receive encouragement and know love and joy. Just as your Son reached out to the lonely and forgotten, watch over these children as they struggle under challenging circumstances. Share your grace with Krystyn, Larry, Madison, Makenzie, Milaishia, Morgan, Quan, Spencer and Xayvion. Give their Big Brothers and Big Sisters compassion, patience and insight so that these relationships will continue to grow. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you by serving these children.

Current Issues March Class Schedule

Mar 5	Dr. Margaret Davis, Find God in the Works of Gerald Manly Hopkins and Flannery O'Connor
Mar 12	Women's Issues, Pat Edington
Mar 19	Woven Together in Mission: Festival of Faith
Mar 26	Race and Bias, with NYT/POV videos and panel discussion

Open your gift!

Every Christian has one or more spiritual gifts. Have you discovered yours? Do you have more than one? What's the difference between talents and spiritual gifts? Let's look for answers and discover our gifts together during a six week study, "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts", led by Luann Rice. Class dates are March 5 - April 23 (no class during Festival of Faith and Easter Sunday). Sign up sheets are located in the main hall and on the CE bulletin board.



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

We welcome all ladies to join us Wednesday, March 15 in the parlor at 10:00 when we will begin a 7-week study of Hebrews. Books will be available for pick-up that day. No meeting April 12.

Please contact Kathy Fountain for more info:
(251) 421-8060 or algebra@comcast.net.

Change is inevitable and to prove it we've altered our Mission Collection method.

Picture the large yellow collection barrels in the Bride's Room. Instead of each barrel labeled to represent a specific agency, the barrels are now generic. There is one barrel for clothing (including shoes, swim suits, etc.), one barrel for housewares, and one for miscellaneous. The red food barrel remains. Each of the barrels has detailed signage for content and a suggestion for which agencies would benefit from items left within.

Food donations for the Back Pack program go to the red barrel. There are still some small boxes for stamps

& eyeglasses.

When the liaison person for any agency needs to deliver items, he/she would just pull from the designated barrel whatever is needed or requested.

Occasionally the church will still sponsor specific drives for any of our mission agencies. Those drives and needs will be noted on our Sunday bulletin announcements.

Backpack Foods Ministry Update!

The February assembly of backpacks was a great success. We assembled 95 backpacks in less than one hour on Saturday, Feb. 4th. That is enough backpacks to last a month. Thank you to everyone that participated in the assembly of the backpacks and to those that have contributed money to the Backpack Ministry. The cost of the food for one month is \$400.00. Sunday, Feb 5th

our youth hosted the third annual Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth collected \$725 for the Backpack Ministry. To our youth and to everyone that contributed, your efforts are greatly appreciated! Our next assembly of Backpacks will be March 4th at 9AM, in the Bullard Building, room 215.

Welcoming the Next Generations

Sometimes I have to take a few quiet minutes and marvel at what a wonderful church community we have! Margaret and I snuck into the back pews sometime late in 1987, a young couple new to Mobile and expecting our first child. Our welcome was so warm and engaging and inviting that we never escaped to visit any other church in town. We were immediately ensconced into Sunday School and supper clubs and blessed with choirs and circles of friends and access to babysitters! The best part of that experience may have been that everything was just already here and waiting for us. Someone before us had built a house of worship and classrooms and a choir loft and a Communion table and we just had to accept the invitation from a caring community of believers and be loved.

That was a great gift to receive from people I never met and that's the same gift I would like to preserve and present for generations to come. And I hope you feel the same, because we are embarking on a mission to renew our home, our house of worship, our sacred space at Spring Hill Presbyterian. After rigorous discernment, prudent deliberation and financial discipline consistent with our Scottish heritage, our Capital Needs Committee defined a short list of critical needs and improvements necessary for the maintenance of our campus. From the long awaited modernization of our air

conditioning and environmental controls to the integrity of our roofs, parking areas and accessibility for those with disabilities, important work needs to be accomplished to insure our church is welcoming and hospitable for all those who would seek the love of Christ here.

Welcoming the Next Generations is our five year commitment to complete and fully fund these important projects. It is our hope and goal to raise \$750,000 during this time to accomplish this mission – and that includes a \$75,000 tithe to support three groups that encompass those future generations: Presbyterian Home for Children, UKirk and the Montreat Conference Center. You will hear much more this spring about our commitment to these goals, specific details about the projects and their timelines and ways you can participate and contribute. Please take some quiet time to prayerful consider what you love about Spring Hill Presbyterian Church and your faith community and how you can commit to our renewal and our promise to faithfully welcome the next generations.

Harvie Jordan,
for the Capital Campaign Committee.

"Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine – the creation of a community of love in this world, and beyond this world, because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death."

*Henry J.M. Nouwen, inspired
by Eph 3:20 and 1 Cor 13:8*



Woven Together: Heaven and Earth

The Festival of Faith is an annual tradition at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Over the week of March 12-19, our church will participate in many special opportunities for study and service. Dr. Robert Williamson, Professor of Religious Studies at Hendrix College and founder of Mercy Community Church in Little Rock, AR will be our guest speaker with lectures and a sermon on the Book of

Revelation. Throughout the week (and especially on Saturday, March 18) our members will engage in various mission projects throughout the Mobile community to share in our Acts of Hope. Check out the calendar of events below and be sure to sign up for Acts of Hope in the Fellowship Hall.

Calendar of Events

Early Projects:

Feeding the Gulf Coast (food bank): Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Blood Drive: Sunday, March 12 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Government Street Coffee Club (serving breakfast to the homeless)

Thursday, March 16; & Friday, March 17 at 6:45 AM

Preschool Pizza Party: Friday, March 17 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Friday, March 17:

Dinner & Lecture with Dr. Williamson: Bullard Building at 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 18

Allen Memorial Home (work crew): arrive at 9:00 AM

Allen Memorial (visiting crew): arrive at 10:00 AM

Wings of Life (serving lunch): arrive at 11:30 AM

Mobile Baykeeper (clean-up day): 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Langan Park

Sunday, March 19

Lecture with Dr. Williamson: Bullard Building at 9:00 AM

Worship with Sermon from Dr. Williamson: Sanctuary at 10:30 AM

Celebration Luncheon: Bullard Building at 11:30 AM

Friday, March 24 through Sunday, March 26

Alabama Presbyterian Home for Children: Mission Trip to Talladega, AL

Gathering at the Table

Dear Friends,

The first day of this month kicks off our Lenten journey—how fitting that Ash Wednesday is on March 1 this year. This year as we journey through Lent looking at texts that challenge the empire in worship, we will also be “Gathering at the Table.” We invite you to participate in our Lent Intergenerational Devotional this year. Here are the reasons why we think you should join us:

1. It's weekly. Don't think you have enough time? This devotional is once a week! We challenge you to gather around the table once a week with your family or alone to read, pray, and reflect.

2. It's intergenerational. This devotional is for everyone—young and old! Skeptical that it's for you—give it a try!

3. It's hands on. Each week you will add something new to your table. Our six-week journey sets the table for the Lord's Table in worship on Palm Sunday. Our devotional isn't just paper—you need a box to fit everything inside!

4. It connects to worship. Say you can't make it to worship one Sunday—inside your box, you will have both the Scripture reading and Call to Worship for the week! Even when you can't be here with us to worship at church, you can still worship with us through this devotional.

5. It will continue to weave us together!

Boxes will be available in the church office. We hope you will join us at the table!

Peace,

Anna Fulmer

Notes to and about Youth:

Youth Mission Trip, July 21-23: Bummed you aren't old enough yet to go to Montreat? Well join us for our summer mission trip to **Talladega, AL to the Presbyterian Home for Children!** We will be leaving Friday afternoon and returning on Sunday. This trip is for rising 6th-completed 12th. The deadline to reserve your spot is March 1. Questions? Contact Anna at anna@shpc.us.

Presbytery-Wide All-Day Youth Event is happening **Saturday, March 11 here at Spring Hill** from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. We will spend the day doing games, crafts, a mission project, and small groups. Registration is due ASAP! For more information, see Anna.

Save the Date:

Easter Egg Hunt and Food Trucks

Thursday, April 6, 5:30-7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt at 6:00 pm

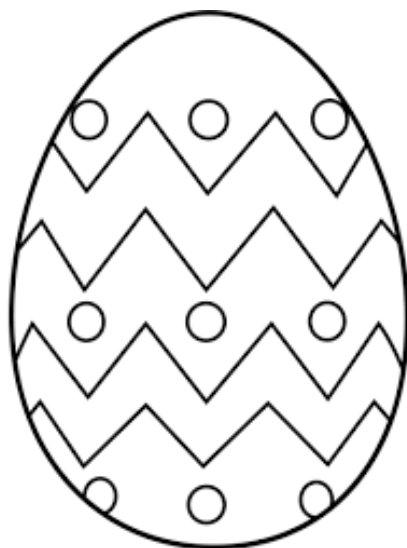
Vacation Bible School: Abundance Orchard

June 26-29, 2017

Registration Opens April 1, 2017



WAYS TO HELP WITH THE Easter Egg Hunt..... NO ACT IS TOO SMALL!!!!



This year we are going to pack favor bags instead of filling eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt—that way no matter how many eggs a child collects, everyone still gets goodies! It will also lessen our prep. Our goal is to pack 300 bags. Here are some of the items we are looking to collect. If you are willing to pack some bags—see Anna for supplies!

DONATE:

Your time...

1. Set-Up Thursday, April 6 at (4:30 pm)
2. Hospitality during the Hunt: Thursday April 6 (5:15-7 pm)
3. Clean-Up on the night of April 6 (7-7:45 pm)
4. By Praying!

Items:

300 Easter Themed pencils

Lots of Candy (without nuts)

300 Erasers

600 Easter Tattoos

600 Stickers

Lots of Small toys (finger puppets, bouncy balls, stretchy toys, rings,

300 Small packs of crayons

Small coloring books/notebooks

Play-dough

Anything small and inexpensive that a child would enjoy!

If you are not interested in shopping for and buying items, checks can always be made out to SHPC.

Make the memo line: **Easter Egg Hunt**

To avoid duplication, sign-up to donate specific items on Anna's door. All items may be delivered to Anna's office no later than March 30. **The earlier, the better!**

College Kids Gotta Eat too!

UKIRK is looking for a few good cooks.

UKirk campus ministry is looking for people who are willing to cook a meal for their students to enjoy during their Monday night meetings. We are looking for someone who is willing to cook the meals and then help transport the food over to campus. We invite you to stay and eat with us - this is a great way to connect with the students at our new ministry! For more information on logistics like timing, location, numbers, dietary restrictions, and how to register, visit our Meal Train website: <https://mealtrain.com/3l9nrw>. For any other questions, please contact Rev. Lauren Peters, lauren@springhillpresbyterian.org





Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on March 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Circles will meet on Wednesday, March 8 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Amy Walton
(6807 Stonebrook Drive S.)

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

#3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Important dates:

March 25, 2017 - Spring Gathering at Government Street Presbyterian

May 11 - Birthday Luncheon and Installation of Officers. Budget Presented.

July 13-15 - AL/MS Women's Conference, South Highland Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

LECTIONERY FOR THE LORD'S DAY MARCH 2017

5 Exodus **19 Revelation**
12 Matthew 5:1-12 **26 2 Sam 2:19**

Congratulate them!

Congratulations to Molly and Alex Lankford who are celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary. Wow!

Statement as of February 2017	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$939,752
Year to date received	698,834
Other receipts	3,787
Total Receipts	\$702,621
Benevolences	32,839
Session directed gifts	72,356
Denomination expense	8,948
Salaries and services	502,205
Programs	18,903
Office expenses	18,309
General & plant services	146,761
Other	15,547
Total Expenses	\$815,868
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$113,247

Calendar for March 2017	
1	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team - 9:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service - 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
2	Writing and Spirituality - 3:30 p.m.
7	Committees
8	Circles Lenten Communion Service - 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
11	Presbytery Youth Retreat
12	Youth Sunday Blood Drive New Member Luncheon
14	Men's Breakfast
15	Women's Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Lenten Communion Service - 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
17-19	Festival of Faith
20	Newsletter Deadline
21	Session - 6:00 p.m. Diaconate - 7:00 p.m.
22	Women's Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Lenten communion Service - 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)
24-25	Mission trip to Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega
25	Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering
28	Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10:00 a.m.
29	Women's Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Lenten Communion Service - 12:15 p.m. (Organ music for meditation begins at noon)



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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Woven Together: Heaven and Earth
Festival of Faith

Projects begin March 11
Where will you serve?
Festival Weekend is March 17, 18 and 19
SAVE THE DATES!