

SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 82, Number 12, March, 2018

A Time to Gather Stones

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

The book of Ecclesiastes includes the familiar passage that begins “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” What follows in the scripture is a list of different seasons:

**“a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to
pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up...”**

This biblical text was made popular outside the church by the band The Byrds who used it as the basis for their song, “Turn! Turn! Turn!” You’re humming to yourself right now, aren’t you?

For everything there is a season. I’ve been thinking a lot about seasons right now, in particular, the baseball and t-ball season as my son begins playing and I now find myself coaching the sport that I love. Turn! Turn! Turn! New seasons bring excitement, new potential, expected joys and unexpected surprises. The season of spring is underway as March blooms forth one of the most beautiful months in Mobile. Turn! Turn! Turn! The book of Ecclesiastes lists these many different seasons not just as a simple statement of fact, but as an invitation for self-examination. What season of life are you in? “A time to weep” or “a time to laugh?” “A time to mourn” or “a time to dance?” “A time to keep silence” or “a time to speak?” Biblical wisdom and Christian discipleship are filled with moments of truth in which we are called to discern what time it truly is and to act accordingly. Turn! Turn! Turn!

The great Christian educator, Parker Palmer, suggests in his book *Let Your Life Speak* that there are cyclical seasons in each of our lives that mirror the seasons of nature. There is the season of Autumn when

we experience deep beauty amidst decline and when we plant seeds that will take time to grow in the future.

There is the season of Winter which demands great discipline to endure, but when we also can see farther and with greater clarity because of what is no longer present. There is the season of Spring with its messy, mucky, growing time of creativity, when seeds that seemed to have died in Winter find new birth and begin taking root. There is the season of Summer when the harvest bears fruit and we experience gifts of abundance, when community is formed and gathered around sharing and generosity. Which metaphorical season might you find yourself in right at this point in your life? Turn! Turn! Turn!

We all are right smack dab in the middle of the liturgical season of Lent, a time of introspection, prayer, and discipline. Our church-wide theme “Stones that Shout” has been in full swing for a few weeks and will lead us into Holy Week and Easter. Ecclesiastes tells us that there is **“a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together.”** I hope that the sermons, Wednesday worship services, and upcoming Holy Week services will give you opportunities to gather together the memories of God’s reconciling love made real for you in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And I hope that you will experience opportunities to cast out and scatter these truths to others in your life as you model and share the good news of our Easter faith. As Christians, we are always in the season of resurrection and reconciliation!

Grace and Peace,

Buz

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Lent 2018: Stones that Shout

In this forty-day journey to Easter we will examine stories from scripture in which stones and rocks are used to express the power of God's salvation for us. Our texts will be taken from the gospels on Sunday mornings and from the Old Testament on Wednesdays for our midweek Celtic Lenten services at noon. Join us as we journey together following the Lord who is our "**rock and redeemer.**"

Sundays

2/18 Stones to Bread (Temptation)
2/25 A Foundation Built on Rock
3/4 Peter the Rock
3/11 Casting Stones (Youth Sunday)
3/18 Stones Rejected
3/25 Stones will Shout (Palm Sunday)

Wednesdays

2/14 Wilderness Stones (Exodus)
2/21 Memory Stones (Joshua)
2/28 Stones & Giants (1 Samuel)
3/7 Stones Crying Out (Habakkuk)
3/14 Stones of Exile (Daniel)
3/21 Rebuilding Stones (Ezra)

Holy Week

3/29 A Foundational Meal (Maundy Thursday) – 7:00 PM in the Chapel
3/30 The Stone Rolled on the Tomb (Good Friday) – Noon in the Chapel
4/1 The Stone Rolled Away (Easter Sunday)

CPR **Training** will be held after worship on Sunday, March 18. Please contact Amanda Dexter at mandapanda61@aol.com or 251-583-4603.

Daylight Savings Time on March 11

Remember to change your clocks so that you don't miss a fantastic Youth Sunday worship service at 10:30 AM.

Spring Hill College CHRISTUS THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our pastor, Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, serves on the advisory board for the Christus Theological Institute at Spring Hill College. This year, we are very excited to welcome one of our own, Dr. William Brown (Presbyterian pastor and Old Testament professor at Columbia Theological Seminary) as the featured speaker for the Christus Annual Conference, at Spring Hill College in the Gautrelet Room of the Administration Building. Dr. Brown preached at SHPC in 2015 for the installation service of Rev. Anna Fulmer. Come hear his instructive and inspiring lectures on Christian faith and scientific inquiry, both of which are grounded in the Biblical virtue of wonder.

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 PM – "The Temple of Life: Biblical Creation in the Light of Modern Cosmology"

Friday, March 9, 10:15 AM – "The Tempest of Life: Job. Creation and Ecology"

PRESBYTERIAN 101: OUR FAMILY OF FAITH

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 Room 7 of the Edington Building during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00 am Sunday mornings).

March 4	The Presbyterian Tradition Part 1
March 11	The Presbyterian Tradition Part 2
March 18	SHPC History and Mission
March 25	SHPC Members and Ministry

Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Classes for the Lenten Season

A LENTEN STUDY ON THE CHALLENGE OF FORGIVENESS

In March, the Current Issues Class will explore complex ideas around forgiveness from various perspectives: Biblical and theological foundations, examples from current events, and local initiatives in our own community. Questions raised in the book *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* by Marjorie J. Thompson will help guide our discussion. On March 18, guest presenter Merceria Ludgood, District One Mobile County Commissioner, will offer updates on reconciliation in our city. Join us for lively conversation as we grapple with this challenging topic. The class meets at 9:00 in the Terry Room in the Edington Building.

BIBLE DISCOVERY

This class welcomes adults of all ages to our March study of scripture passages from the first three books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus), and the book of 2 Chronicles. Our lessons focus this Spring on the ways God's people have acknowledged the greatness of their God. We will begin looking at guidance for following God. Then, with Easter, we turn to ways Jesus provided a channel for giving God glory and honor. The class meets in the Conference Room at 9:00.

Raising Resilient Children

This pop-up class will meet in Room 7 in the Edington Building at 9:00 on Sundays, March 4-25. Parents of children and youth are encouraged to join us and add your experience and perspectives as we frame conversations around the "hot button" issues you have requested.

Presbyterian 101

Each year, this much-anticipated class led by Buz Wilcoxon explores what it means to be Presbyterian. The class meets four Sundays in March at 9:00 in Room 9 in the Edington Building. New members and visitors are especially encouraged to participate, but all are welcome to come. *(See details on previous page.)*

Music Notes by Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Again This Year Our Wednesday Mid-Day Lenten Services are 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 (see below for the schedule of participants.)

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 who will sing verses of the hymn on which the organ music is based (especially when

Music for Meditation continues on Wednesdays at Noon

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 enjoy 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 services that follow.

Music for Meditation in March

March 7: Sarah Wright, soprano

March 14: Susan Schlichting,
soprano, with Randy Sheets

March 21: Jennifer Bemis, organ



LENT. WAIT, WHAT?

Dear Friends,

What is Lent? “Lent is the 40 days that leads to Easter.” “Lent is the stuff that is in my belly button, or the stuff I get out of the dryer.” “Lent is a time for giving, praying, reflecting, learning, growing.” These are the answers that some of our youth gave when I asked them what Lent is. Lent is different than lint—the stuff that could be in your belly button. Lent is the season right before Easter. It’s liturgical color is purple. It lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays). It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The number forty in the Bible represents a large amount—it’s used over and over. Jesus fasts for forty days in the wilderness. The Israelites wander in the desert for forty years. Moses goes up to Mount Sinai to be with God and stays for forty days. These forty days are often a time of reflection, fasting, and preparation for Easter. Often, we are unsure what we are supposed to “do” during Lent.

Here’s what I think about Lent: Lent is not about renewing our New Year’s Resolutions. It’s not about losing five pounds. It’s not about becoming a better “you.” Lent is about stripping down the things that distract us and distance us from God. It is about looking at our world and the ways we are still unjust and crucify people today. Sometimes that means giving up things that separate us from God and our neighbors. Sometimes that means adding a practice each day like prayer, time for silence, reading the Bible, journaling, volunteering, or acts of justice and service. Lent is not just about us. It is about our relationship with God and our communities.

Just because you did not give up anything or start a new practice does not mean you’ve lost your chance. Start reflecting now. Where are you on your spiritual journey? Do you feel like you are in the wilderness? A solid place? What do you need right now to grow closer to God, yourself, and others? Do you need to make more space in your life by saying no? Or do you need to add something? For more ways you can dig deeper, join with the rest of our church family and start reading our intergeneration devotional. It has prayers, readings, questions, and acts to engage your mind, body, and spirit. God be with you as we continue along this journey of Lent and life together.

Peace,

Anna Fulmer

SAVE THE DATE:



Youth Sunday is March 11, 2018. We will continue our theme “Stones that Shout.” Come hear our high school seniors preach and how the Spirit is moving in our youth. Note: Youth we will have a dress rehearsal Sunday, March 4, 6-7:30 pm.

Confirmation Retreat is happening on March 23. We will meet at church at 5:30 pm and return around 9:30 pm. This is mandatory for all youth in the Confirmation process.

Confirmation Sunday is April 15. Confirmands will meet with the Session at 9 am (Parents are welcome), and will be confirmed in the 10:30 am worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt and Food Trucks

Thursday, March 22, 5:30-7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt at 6:00 pm

Children and Parent Pop-Up Classes:

March 18—Holy Week and Easter Pop-Up Class
April 29: Presbyterian 101 for Kids (and Parents)

Vacation Bible School: Abundance Orchard

June 25-28, 2018

Registration Opens April 1, 2018

Lilies

Lilies will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship Easter Sunday, April 1. The plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Congregational Care Committee in the name of the church following worship. Cost: \$18.00. Please call, email or fill out the form in the hall if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Deadline is March 19.



Memorials have been received for the following:

Doris McGowan
Mary Jane Armstrong
Norma Calder
Gary Armstrong
Joe Dan Dunnam

From the following:

Mary Lewis
Mary Buehler
Nick Vrakelos
Jane and Louis Williams
Ruth Fitzgerald
Royce and Pat Ray

An Honorarium has been received in honor of Frank Ehman by Helen Wells.



Church Calendar-MARCH 2017

1	Writing & Spirituality- 2:30 pm
6	Committees
7	PW Coordinating Team – 9:30 am Lenten Communion Service in Chapel – 12:15pm (Organ music for meditation begins at noon).
11	Youth Sunday
13	Church Breakfast – 7:00 am
14	Circles Lenten Communion Service in Chapel – 12:15pm (Organ music for meditation begins at noon).
18	CPR-following worship
19	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 am
20	Session 6:00 pm Diaconate – 7:00 pm
21	Lenten Communion Service in Chapel – 12:15pm (Organ music for meditation begins at noon).
22	Easter Egg Hunt & Food Trucks
23	Confirmation Retreat
25	Communion
27	Prayer Shawl Ministry
29	Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Chapel – 7:00 pm
30	Good Friday service at noon in the Chapel



Back Pack Food for Kids

The **Souper Bowl of Caring** was a great success with over \$600.00 being collected! Thank you to everyone that helped and contributed to this worthy cause. The first Saturday of every month school is in session is when we get together to assemble the backpacks. The next meeting will be March 3rd in the Bullard Building at 9:00 AM, room 215. Your help and assistance is greatly appreciated.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on March 7 in the Conference Room. Circles will meet together on March 14, in the Fellowship Hall, to celebrate Anna Fulmer's engagement and upcoming marriage.

PW- DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2018

April 14	Spring Gathering – Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Dothan
May 9	Birthday Luncheon and installation of Officers. (Budget Presented)
June 13 – 15	AI/MS Women's Conference Brierwood PC – Jackson, MS
August 2-5	Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY

Congregational Meeting

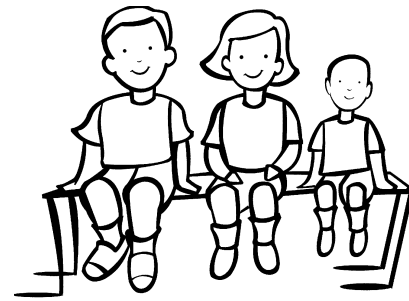
**The Session has called a Congregation Meeting
after worship on March 4 to elect the
2018 Officer Nominating Committee.**



Mobile Architecture and History. The Religious Arts Committee invites you to a walking tour of historic downtown Mobile with Cart Blackledge on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Cart has been a well-received speaker at our summer Sunday School series and is an encyclopedia of Mobile architecture and history. We will gather at the southeast corner Mardi Gras Park at the corner of Church 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](tel:251-401-0811) or email

judydstout@mchsi.com (Mention if you would like to carpool from the church at 3:30 pm).

Library Art. Throughout the month of March, the Library Art exhibit features Weezie Taylor's dynamic



Children's Sunday School

Throughout the month of March, our children's Sunday school classes will continue to hear stories from the book of Mark.

On the first Sunday in March, we will hear the story of the poor widow giving her two small coins. The children will learn that no gift is too small in the eyes of God.

Our children will talk about the Last Supper on March 11. We will discuss the celebration of Communion in our church, talking about the ways it is the same as Jesus did at the Last Supper. We will also talk about why we do this every month at our church.

On March 18, the story will be about Jesus washing his disciples' feet. We will learn ways to practice loving God by serving others.

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on March 25. Our children will also discuss the events of Holy Week and their importance to the Easter story.

In children's church, we will continue our lessons from Sunday school. We will have additional activities to go along with the story.

The children have been working hard painting the rocks that are being handed out with the Lenten booklets. They have enjoyed serving others by making something for our church members!



We Share in Sorrow.

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Jeff and Cynthia Glidewell in the death of Jeff's mother, Imarie

Glidewell, on January 25 in Pensacola; with the family of Norma Calder in her death on February 6.

VBS is Coming! Time to sign up!



**where faith grows
and hungry people
are fed**

June 25-28, 9-11:30 am

at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

To sign up go to: <https://goo.gl/forms/nczh8WyFGT9Ohwn32>



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage

Paid

Permit No. 1252
Mobile, AL



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 29, 7:00 PM, CHAPEL

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 30, 12:00 NOON, CHAPEL

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 1, 10:30AM, SANCTUARY