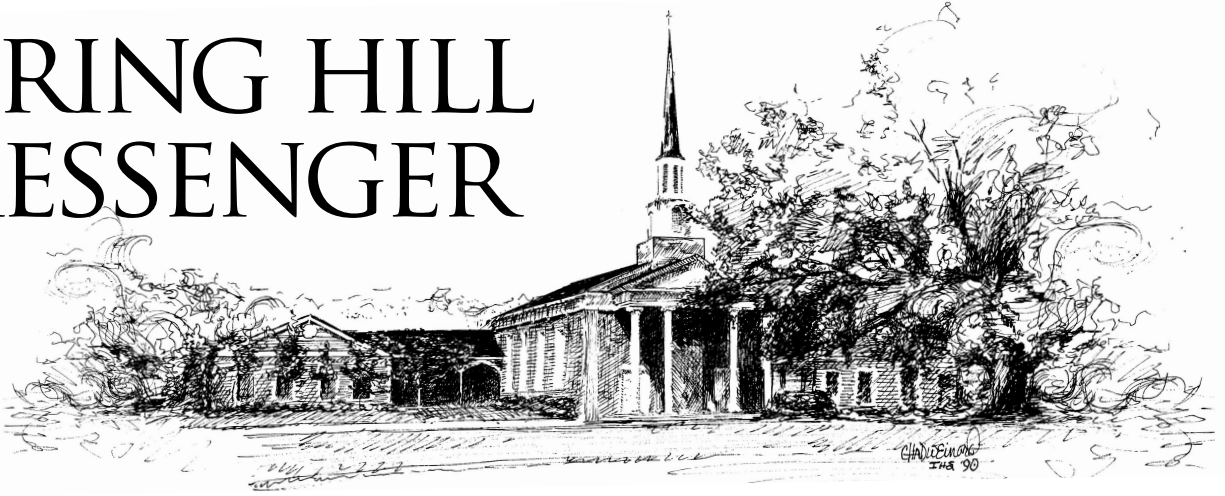


# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

March, 2019

## WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

**"For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers... So teach us to number our days that we may gain a wise heart."**

– Psalm 90: 4-6, 12

Some of us may feel like we're still getting used to writing "2019" on our checks and other documents, yet here we are, already looking the month of March and the season of Lent square in the face. Where has the time gone? I ask that question sometimes in the midst of busy schedules, full calendars, or in those moments when I glimpse that my children have grown just a bit older—seemingly overnight. Where has the time gone?

How we understand time is at the heart of our calling as Christian disciples. One of my favorite biblical scholars suggests that one of the most important questions of our faith is "What time is it?" Discerning what time it truly is and how we are to act in our own time are hard questions, but important questions, which we must wrestle with if we take the claims of our faith seriously.

Of all the acts of resistance, both large and small, that the early Christians engaged in while suffering as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, perhaps the most significant was reorienting their concept of time based on the definitive event of Jesus' reign, not the reigns of earthly emperors. Naming our years from the "birth of Christ" not the "reign of Caesar" reshapes our world, our values, our assumptions about power and authority, and ultimately our hope for the future.

Throughout the ages, people of faith have also sought to orient their time each week in intentional ways. These

weekly cycles are rooted in both the New Testament celebration of the Resurrection (the Lord's Day, every Sunday) as well as the Old Testament command/gift/invitation to "remember the Sabbath."

We are invited to "number our days" so that we might grow in wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

If you've been listening carefully you may have noticed our associate pastor, Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke, speaking a good deal recently about this biblical concept of Sabbath. In the midst of her ministry at SHPC, Anna is also studying at Columbia Theological Seminary as a student in the Doctor of Ministry degree program. One of the requirements for the degree is for each student to design and lead a special project or program (called a "practicum") in their particular context of ministry. This Spring we at SHPC will get to benefit from Anna's hard work, study, and reflections as she designs and leads a wonderful series for the season of Lent on the many facets of the biblical theme of Sabbath. In the pages of this newsletter you will see a full description of our Sunday morning schedule for Lent, our Wednesday mid-week services (beginning on Ash Wednesday), and a daily spiritual practice component of the series that invites us to connect Sabbath living to each day of our week.

In the days ahead, as we walk the well-worn, 40-day path that leads to the resurrection, may we all seek to "be still and know" the truth that we are created and re-created to glorify and enjoy God all of our days. So, where has the time gone? It has gone to God, from whom it came in the first place.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, Pastor

# Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

## Current Issues Sunday School Class Schedule

**MARCH 3** Dr. Sam Strada, *The Opioid Crisis* (Edington Building);  
(or Dr. Steven Trout, *the 100th anniversary of World War I*)

**MARCH 10** Dana Hall McCain, al.com<<http://al.com>> columnist on faith, culture, and politics; Dana will join us by Skype at 9 am.

**MARCH 17** "Stop, Pause, Sabbath-Experiencing Sabbath in a Busy World,"; Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke

**MARCH 24** Dr. Steven Trout, *the 100th anniversary of World War I*  
(or Dr. Sam Strada, *The Opioid Crisis*)

## MARCH 31 and April 7 -

### Special Sunday School Class Combining Young Adults and Current Issues

One of this year's goals for the Christian Education Committee is "To strengthen our core as a faith community that learns together." Although our Young Adults are always welcome and encouraged to attend either the Current Issues or the Bible Discovery Class on Sundays, the C.E. Committee wants to be more intentional by promoting specific opportunities for combining age groups in ways that might be especially appealing to all.

On March 31 and April 7, selected quotes from two books by Parker Palmer will be the focus for conversation around our multiple perspectives on vocation (*Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*) and on aging as a passage of discovery (*On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, & Getting Old*). You do not need to have read either book to join the conversation! Your own life experiences and the quotes from Palmer's books will be a reference point. Gain a new appreciation for the insights and wisdom of those in our congregation from 25 to 95, as we share what we have learned on life's journey. Class meets at 9:00 in the Terry Room in the Edington Building. Co-facilitated by Molly Wagner and Dale Hair.

## Art In The Library

Art in the library during March and April will feature worship teaching aids for children made by Wanda Lawrence and her friend Dianne Davidson. The soft sculptures represent the sacraments, the liturgical year, and prominent Bible stories. These aids are child friendly and give the children an opportunity to have "hands on" as they begin their faith journey. Expect to see some of the aids in support of future Children's Sermons and as our young people are taught in classes about our church and sacraments. Visit the library occasionally over the next two months to view new sculptures as they are created!

## Church-wide Events Spring 2019 Calendar in Brief

### APRIL

11

Easter Egg Hunt 5:30-7 pm

28

Senior Breakfast (High School)  
and Graduation Sunday

### JUNE

2

Summer Series Begins

24-27

Vacation Bible School

## "FISH CAMP"

### - Men's Sunday School Series:

Join other men in the church for a special short-term Sunday school series during Lent. Check the bulletin announcements and weekly email news for more details.



## Lilies



Lilies will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship on Easter Sunday, April 21. 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 April 4.



## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on March 6 in the Conference Room. Circles will meet on March 13.

## Important Dates

**May 8** Birthday Offering and Installation of Officers. Budget presented. Birthday Offering received.

**June 13-15** AL/MS Women's Conference and Synod Gathering (see flyer in this issue for details)



### We Rejoice!

We rejoice with Sally Morrisette in the birth of a great-grandson, Evan Wright Bolt (Wright) on February 9. Parents are Molly and Weathers Bolt.



### We Share in Sorrow.

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Dusty Walton in the death of her husband, Norman, on February 12 and Lee Fox on the death of her husband, Bill Fox on February 6.

### Memorials have been received for the following:

Stanley James Thurston, Sr  
Mike Belue  
Elizabeth Hill

### From the following:

Pamela Hall  
Tad Wikle  
Spring Hill Ringers  
Lisa Weldon

### Church calendar: MARCH 2019

2	Back pack for Kids-9:00 a.m.
3-4	Mardi Gras- church office closed
3-8	Preschool closed
4	Good Will/Easter Seals closed
6	Ash Wednesday-Lenten service. Music starts at 12:00, with service at 12:15 10:00 PWCT 11:00 Congregational care
11	Outreach 4:00
12	Bible Breakfast 7:00 a.m. Welcoming and Belonging 1:00 Worship Committee 6pm
13	Day Circle 10:00 a.m. Lenten service. Music starts at 12:00, with service at 12:15 Night Circle 6:00 p.m.
16	Yeoman Workday
18	Newsletter deadline
19	Session 6:00 p.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m.
20	Lenten service. Music starts as 12:00, with service at 12:15
23	Wedding
24	Youth Sunday 75th Anniversary - Hymn Sing- 5:00 p.m.
26	Prayer Shall Ministry
27	Lenten service. Music starts at 12:00, with service at 12:15

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS- Mark your Calendars!

**March 3:** We will not have Sunday night activities for Youth or Adults due to Joe Cain Festivities.

**March 17:** Final Youth Sunday Dress Rehearsal from 6-7:30 pm. Join us for dinner and our last rehearsal!

**March 24:** Youth Sunday

### Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

**Thursday, April 11** Easter Egg Hunt from 5:30-7 pm

**June 24-27** Vacation Bible School

# *“Be Still and Know”*

*Dear Friends,*

Last weekend, we hosted the Presbytery meeting. Sunday was Festival of Faith. Monday morning I woke up at 4 am to catch a flight to attend a meeting to help lead recreation for the Middle School Montreat Conference. We worked late into the nights. Wednesday morning I flew back. Friday I left for a mission trip. Sunday I returned. Writing this is exhausting, much less living it. In all of this there wasn't much time to stop. Pause. Sabbath. The world that we are living in can be exhausting. We are taught that our worth is based on our work. And if we are not productive, then what are we? With technology, we are given the option of working all the time. And if we cannot work or choose not to work all the time, then there must be something wrong with us. Our world is exhausted. I would argue that most of us are exhausted. We need Sabbath rest.

So that's why this Lent, I am challenging us to study about Sabbath. What does Sabbath actually mean? Why is Sabbath the most repeated command in all of Scripture and the least practiced? Why is Sabbath the FIRST thing we are taught as humans on the seventh day of creation (Note: we were created just the day before)? Why does the Sabbath command take up 1/3 of the Ten Commandments? These are just some of the questions we are going to explore this Lent, because we are called “To Be Still and Know.”

One of my favorite things about this season is that we are not just going to talk about Sabbath. We are going to practice Sabbath. We have a weekly cycle of practices we hope you will try with us. And let me be clear. I am not a Sabbath pro. In fact, the reason why I am so attracted to the theme of Sabbath is because I struggle to stop. It's hard for me to push pause and rest. Our world praises overworking and the worship of work. So for the next few months, every day I am going to adopt a practice each day of the week: Worship, Breathing, Journaling, Offering Sabbath to Another, Play, Sharing a Meal, and Technology Free Sabbath. These practices are for people of all ages. We even have take-home packets for you to pick-up to dig deep in each of these practices (they will be in the main building's hallway).

Here in our newsletter, I am going to share with you my shortcomings and realizations. I hope you will join me as we learn that our worth is based on being children of God and that our God is a God of rest. We are human beings not human doers. So let's be. Be still and know. May we receive God's blessed rest in our busy world.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke*

## *Children's ministry news*

The lessons for children's Sunday school and children's church for March, will come from the book of Luke.

We will begin March with the story of Jesus' transfiguration. Our children will hear how Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus, James and John. We will also hear that the voice of God told the disciples to listen to his chosen son Jesus.

On March 10, children will hear the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. We will talk about who our neighbors are as well as what it means to be a good neighbor.

The lesson on March 17 will be from the parable of the mustard seed. Children will discuss how a tiny mustard seed grows into a big tree, just as the church grows to represent God's kingdom.

Children will enjoy a party on March 24, as they hear the story of a wealthy man inviting his friends to a party. When none of the friends can attend the party, the man invites poor people to enjoy the party and how much it means to share your blessings.

We will finish up March with the parable of the lost and found. Our classes will discuss how God wants everyone included in his love and care, and not to exclude anyone.



## Lent 2019: Be Still and Know

Our world moves at a breathtaking speed; yet God over and over demands that we stop. Cease. Sabbath. Not only that, but God commands us to provide rest for others, in fact all of creation. So join us, as we journey closer to our God who provides rest for the weary.

- During this season, we challenge you to a daily Sabbath practice through our take-home Sabbath packet (found in the main hallway).
- Join us on Sunday mornings for worship at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary and Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the Chapel (music for meditation begins at noon), to explore the theme of Sabbath.

### **Sundays (10:30 am)**

- 3/10 Wilderness & Sabbath (Temptation)
- 3/17 The Sabbath Command (Exodus 20)
- 3/24 Be Still and Know (Youth Sunday)
- 3/31 A Sabbath Jubilee (Deut. 15)
- 4/7 Growing Compassion on Sabbath

### **Wednesdays**

(12:15 worship, 12:00 music for meditation)

- 3/6 Created to Sabbath
- 3/13 Sabbath as Resistance (Exodus)
- 3/20 Sabbath Provision (Exodus 16)
- 3/27 Sabbath in the Field (Deut. 15)
- 4/3 A Prophetic Sabbath
- 4/10 Sabbath Where You Are (Luke)

### **Holy Week**

- 4/14 Sabbath in the Garden (Palm Sunday)
- 4/18 A Sabbath Meal (Maundy Thursday)
- 4/19 Sitting in Sabbath's Shadow (Good Friday)
- 4/21 Living in the Light of Sabbath Resurrection (Easter Sunday)

## Our 75th Anniversary Year Begins!



### 75th Anniversary Hymn Sing

### *Joining the Song of The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

Sunday, March 24, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, March 24, at 5:00 p.m., we will gather for a time in which we Join the Song of the Great Cloud of Witnesses. With the leadership of singers and instrumentalists from our congregation, we will:

- Sing “good old hymns” --- What were Presbyterians Singing 75 years ago?
- Sing hymns recently written by members of our congregation.
- Sing hymns by Susan Palo Cherwien,  
the prominent hymn poet whom we have commissioned to write a hymn for our 75th Anniversary.

Singing together as a congregation is a vital part of the worship of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. In singing, we express, as a community and as individuals, our praises and prayers, our hopes and fears, our longings and lamentations and thanksgivings. Because of the power of music, when we sing, our prayers carry increased depth and intensity-- we can truly pray twice.

Because singing is so important to our congregation, it is appropriate to celebrate congregational song in various ways during our 75th Anniversary year. We have already begun that celebration with a course entitled Singing our Faith: The Poetry of Hymns. On two Saturdays in January, 20-plus people gathered to explore how hymn poets use sound and rhythm to embody and express the theology, meaning and moods of what we sing. Several of the class participants wrote hymn poems during the days surrounding these classes, and others are engaging in this creative process now. During our Hymn Sing, we will enjoy singing these hymn poems by our church members. I am confident in saying that we will be amazed by the talent and creativity of our own people!

In addition to nurturing, encouraging, and celebrating the gifts of the people of SHPC during this anniversary year, we will also draw upon the gifts of persons from outside of our congregation. A major project of our 75th Anniversary Celebration is the commissioning of a creative duo--poet Susan Palo Cherwien and her musician husband David Cherwien-- to write a hymn poem, hymn tune, and anthem for us. Pastor Buz Wilcoxon and I have communicated with the Cherwiens about our congregation, our music program, and especially about the character, ethos, theology, worship life, and outreach of our church, and about our anniversary theme--“A Great Cloud of Witnesses.” Informed by this communication, the Cherwiens will create a hymn and anthem that is relevant to our congregation in this year and beyond, and also to other congregations around the world. As an introduction to the work of Susan Palo Cherwien, at our Hymn Sing we will begin to explore her poetry found in our hymnal.

Plan to join us for this joyous time in which we will celebrate our traditions and the creative work of our people today, and as we also look ahead to a bright future of Joining the Song of the Great Cloud of Witnesses.

— Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist



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