



SPRING HILL MESSENGER March 2023

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate, a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.



Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

(From the *Book of Common Worship*, 2018 ed.)

We gathered in the chapel at noon on Ash Wednesday. Ashes were imposed and communion was celebrated. Spring Hill Presbyterian Church has begun the Lenten season. On each of the Wednesdays during Lent we will gather in the chapel at noon. Please plan to join us.

As you will see from the content of this newsletter, a great deal is happening at SHPC. Youth Sunday, the Common Read, my favorite: Anna returns to work Monday, Feb. 27, and many, many more events.

Peace.

Cary

Dear SHPC Friends,

This month, I am excited to return back to serving SHPC after 12 weeks of family leave. Thank you for allowing me this time and space to adjust to being a parent of two children and to get to know the newest member of our family. I know it can seem like this time away was just an extended vacation, but I assure you, the work of parenting a newborn is more than a full-time job (and a lot of adjustment with a toddler). I am so proud that this church places an importance on families and supports their staff through a strong family leave policy for full-time employees. When Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me” and “whoever welcomes such a child in my name welcomes me,” Jesus placed children front and center in his ministry. Jesus loves and cares for children. He wanted those who might be ignored, lost, or forgotten to be lifted up. When we make baptismal promises to babies and families, we promise to love and care for children, raising them in the Christian faith. SHPC begins this work from the beginning through this policy, so thank you! The church is stronger and lives out the gospel of loving God and neighbors through both welcoming children and caring for children. I know I am a stronger parent and pastor through this time away. I am excited to be back at SHPC and ministry with you.

A few things to highlight in March. First, don't miss our Open Play for children March 18 from 9:00-10:00 am and our Easter Egg Hunt March 30 (Storytelling at 5:30 pm, Hunt at 5:45 pm). March 26 our youth will lead us in worship through Youth Sunday; they are focusing on the Old Testament lectionary text, Ezekiel 37:1-14, the Valley of Dry Bones. Our Common Read groups continue through the month of March, and as April approaches, we move closer to Holy Week and Easter (on Apr. 9).

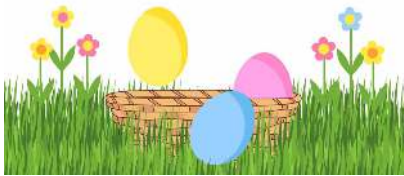
A huge thank you to all of the people who did so much to continue the work of the church while I am away. I know that volunteers and staff did so much, so that I could focus on the work caring for a new human. Know that you continually embody and live out the Gospel and teach me about the love of God through your actions and work. I am lucky to be a part of such a special church family. Look forward to seeing you all soon and saying, “Thank you!” in person.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

Save the Dates

Open Play, Saturday March 18: Children and their families are invited to join us from 9:00—10:00 AM for some open play-time on the playground. We will have coffee for the adults and donuts for everyone. We hope that this is a time for fellowship, play and fun.



Easter Egg Hunt, Thursday March 30: Join us for our Easter Egg Hunt outside on the field. Story time will be at 5:30 and the hunt will begin at 5:45.

Montreat Youth Trips Payment Due:


The final payment for Montreat trips is **THIS Sunday, March 5 (\$210)**. Cost is \$310. A \$100 deposit was due by Dec 1.

The remainder (\$210) is due Mar. 5.

LILIES will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship **Easter Sunday, April 9**. The plants will be taken to home-bound members by the Congregational Care Committee in the name of the church following worship. Cost: \$20.00. Please call or email sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one or by helping to decorate the sanctuary. *Deadline is March 30.*



Lenten Prayer Tree -

 This year we will again have the Lenten prayer tree located outside the sanctuary, available anytime during Lent. Ribbons will be available in the hallway and the Narthex, but you can bring your own ribbon, string, or thread to tie on a branch and we'll all watch it blossom by Easter.

MEMORIALS

*Ashley Graham Brown
Neal Howell
Wanda Lawrence
Malcolm Sumrall*

*Jane Doty Bulwinkle
John Langus
Gladys Sheets
Patsy Torbert*

Nick Vrakelos

Buff and Ken Brown
Barbara Drey
Amy and Charlie Powell
Mitch & Sally Cobb
Jane Williams
Ruth Fitzgerald
Hilda Gewin
Janie Sims
Cort & Susan Schlichting
Tad & Carolyn Wikle
Mary Ruth Andrews
Susan Abrams
Jim & Nancy Adams

Ronald & MaryBeth Allison
Martha Barbour
George & Dianne Davidson
Jay & Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
Andrea Gaston
Travis & Lisa Goodloe
Mack & Betty Graham
Joe & Dale Hair
Sonny & Pennie Kirsch
Linda Langston
Sheila, Tavoris, Zaria &
Zion Lawrence
John & Susan Leach

Henry & Elizabeth Morrissette
Kim Peterson
Louis & Glynn Pilat
Susan Richardson
Jane Ann Sage
Larry Sims
Marriner & Jane smith
Bruce & Sylvia Wienard
Marcia Moore Wheat
Ann Wilson
Cross Walk Class,
Aldersgate United Methodist



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, 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, 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 SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Kathy Fountain in the death of her sister, Anne Frazer Drake, on February 6 in Birmingham: to Ernestine McElroy on the death of her sister, Patricia Trammel Stinson on February 12; to Steve Reams on the death of his brother Joe Reams, Jr. on February 14; and to Anna Fulmer Duke on the death of her grandmother, Vivian Fulmer on February 15, in South Carolina.

Statement as of December 31, 2022	
Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 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 (under)Expenses	\$ (36,983)



JOIN THE EASTER CHOIR: If you have been thinking about joining our adult choir, now is a great time to do so. We are beginning to rehearse music for Easter and Palm Sunday and we would welcome you to our Wednesday night rehearsals--- 7:00 – 8:30. We will also practice music for the Sundays between now and Easter and you can join us for those Sundays, too. Experience in a choir, orchestra, band, or through playing an instrument and reading music is helpful. For more information or to join, contact Randy Sheets at the church (rsheets@shpc.us.) Come join our singing fellowship.

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.

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 Judy Falls and a Friend. ,

March 5: Backpack for Kids

March 12: Comeback Coolers

March 19: Make Cards

March 26: Linus Blankets

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, March 12: Daniel and Lion's Den

March 26: Holy Week and Easter Story



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 Final Payment due March 5: 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. The remainder (\$210) is due Mar. 5.

Youth Ministry Dates

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

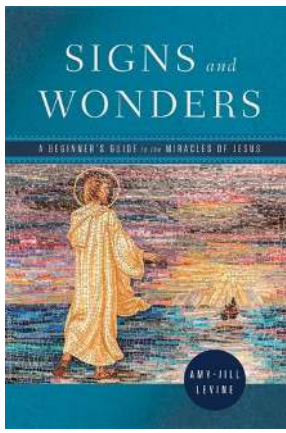
Mar. 12: Crossroads, 11:30-12:30, finishing pieces to Youth Sunday

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

March 26: Youth Sunday, practice at 9:00 am, lunch following worship

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

Youth Sunday School is for youth grades 6—12. They meet each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the youth Room upstairs in the Bullard Building . March 26 meet in the Sanctuary to practice for Youth Sunday.



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

New Book, New Groups!

During the Lenten season (Feb. 26-April 2), all adult Sunday School Classes are participating in small group discussions around the book *Signs and Wonders: The Miracles of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. If you did not sign up, but want to participate, please contact Dale Hair (dale@joehair.com, or 770-335-3391) to be assigned to a group.

Donation Day for the Presbyterian Home for Children (PHFC) Saturday 3/18/23 from 9am -- Noon

PHFC in Talladega recently opened its new 20,000 sq ft Thrift Store after operating for over 30 years in a small 3,400 sq ft space. The new store will provide expanded job skills training for the residents of the Home as well as the local deaf and blind citizens through a partnership with the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Proceeds from the Thrift Store will fund the Home's mission of caring for at risk and homeless children and families.

In order for the Thrift Store to succeed, there needs to be a continuous flow of donated merchandise coming in from throughout the state. Spring Hill Presbyterian Church will help by hosting its first Donation Day on Saturday 3/18/23. We will have a box truck onsite behind the Chapel that will accept donations from 9am - Noon, after which the donations will be transported to Talladega that same day. There will be no drop offs or storage at SHPC before or after those designated times. Please consider donating furniture, home decor, unique one-of-a-kind items, electronics, appliances (small or large in good working condition), and tools of all kinds. (Please note: Clothing items are not needed at this time).

If there are any questions, please contact Ted Autterson at 251-510-5184 or ted.autterson@gmail.com

March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 PWCT Lenten Service	2 Tai Chi	3	4 AA
5 Common Read Worship — Communion Alphabet Genera- tion Choirs Youth Group & Dinner	6 Outreach Girl Scouts PNC	7 Painting Pals Common Read MSC Committees	8 Day Circle Lenten Service Night Circle Chancel Choir	9 Tai Chi	10	11 Presbyte ry Meet ing
12 Common Read Worship BLAST/Crossroads Alphabet Genera- tion Choirs	13 PNC MSC	14 Common Read MSC	15 Congregational Care Lenten Service Chancel Choir	16 Tai Chi	17	18 PHFC— Donation Day Yeoman Workday Open Play AA
19 Common Read Worship Alphabet Genera- tion Youth Group Dinner	20 PNC MSC	21 Common Read MSC Ses sion D iac o- nate	22 Lenten Service Chancel Choir	23 Newsletter Deadline Tai Chi	24	25 AA
26 Common Read Worship Youth Sunday BLAST/ Crossroads Alphabet Genera- tion Choirs	27 PNC MSC	28 Common Read MSC	29 Lenten Service Chancel Choir	30 Tai Chi Easte r Egg Hunt	31	