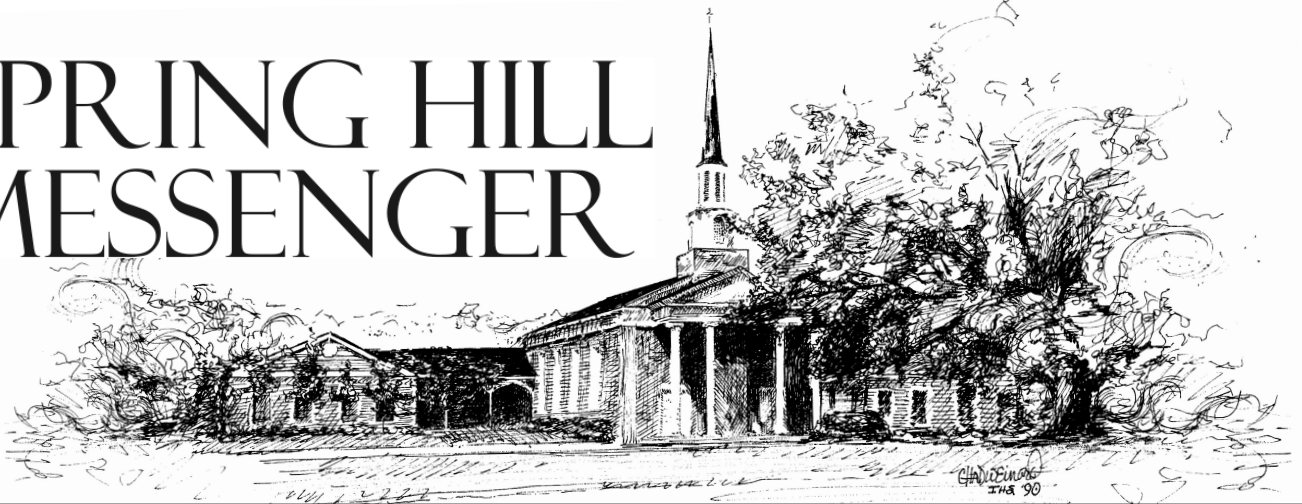


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 81, Number 4, May, 2017

NEW GENERATIONS: HEARTS AND MINDS

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

In these days after Easter our scripture lessons each Sunday in worship have been drawn from different stories that the gospels tell about Jesus appearing to his followers after the resurrection. Each of these stories is moving and powerful, rich with theological insight. But as I read through all of them together, and took a step back to look at the whole picture, I noticed something interesting. Each of the followers that Jesus appears to need something different, and Jesus encounters each of them differently to meet their particular needs.

In Matthew's gospel, the women who have seen the empty tomb are filled with "fear and great joy"—that's a hard mixture of emotions to hold together. Jesus appears to them on the road and proclaims to them "Do not be afraid.—dispersing their fear. In John's gospel, when Mary is blinded by her grief and cannot recognize Jesus standing in front of her, he calls her by her name. When she hears her name and remembers her relationship with him, she is able to truly see. Thomas is filled with doubt and a broken heart, refusing to believe Jesus is risen until he sees him and touches him. Jesus appears again and gives Thomas what he needs to be gathered back into the fold. Peter, who had denied Jesus three times after his arrest, is filled with guilt and shame. Jesus appearing to him asks him three times, "Do you love me?" to give Peter an opportunity to redeem his guilt and return to his role as a leader in this faith community. Time and time again, the risen Christ appears to the disciples, but each time his interaction with them is different, because each person needs something different for their post-Easter faith to mature.

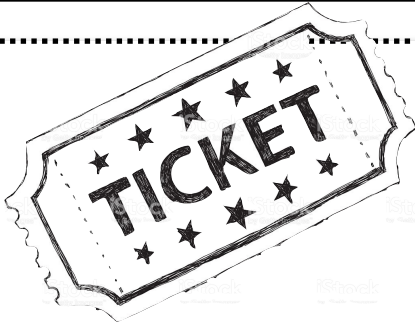
The same is the case with us. We each have our own unique minds and hearts, our own stories of joy and pain. And ultimately, we each encounter Christ in ways that are unique to our journey as his disciples. Far too much conflict and discord

(even all our wars) have been waged in futile attempts to force all Christians to experience Christ in one way, in the same way as those in power. One of the great gifts of our Presbyterian tradition is a willingness to allow for different experiences of faith, different ways of encountering Jesus within the larger Church family. Rather than seeing these differences as a threat to our unity, we celebrate them as a gift that grows from our unity, which is built not upon our own standards or expectations but upon Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, the one head of the Church.

Making room to welcome people to encounter Christ in their own way is what our capital campaign is all about. The theme "Welcoming the Next Generations" is an expression of our commitment that this church will continue to be a community of faith that welcomes people to meet Christ in the first place; to grow deeper in their faith through engaging their heart and mind; and to be sent out into the world to share and show the love of Christ in places of brokenness and need. As these weeks unfold and we move into the time of dedicating to God our pledges and commitments to this capital campaign, I hope that you will reflect prayerfully and remember the ways and times that you have met Christ here and how this church family can continue to be such a community of encounter for generations to come.

Grace and Peace,

Adults



Current Issues May Class Schedule

- May 7** Woven Together in Celebration: Graduation Sunday
- May 14** Where have All the Apostles Gone? (Part 3, Conclusion), Dale Adams
- May 21** The Future of Journalism, Frances Coleman
- May 28** Memorial Day Weekend

“Bunny” Bags, Gratitude and Wonder

Dear Friends,

I am grateful. I woke up the Thursday before Palm Sunday with perfect weather. You might remember, we had crazy storms that Monday morning. Schools were closed! Weather in Mobile is always unpredictable, so you just have to hope the weather will work with you. And truly, it was a wonderful evening for an Easter Egg Hunt. The weather made me grateful, but also the plethora of candy, toys, tattoos, and pencils. The cute bunny bags lovingly decorated by our Fellowship committee also brought a smile to my face. I have so many images of our community coming together to make this hunt come together—children and youth packing 300 Easter bags on a Sunday night—getting finished just in the nick of time. My entire office being flooded with these bunny bags (it seemed like they multiplied!).

The Fellowship committee poured lemonade and water (and decorated many bags!). The Christian Education committee organized the hunt. Ten students from Faith Academy volunteered to direct traffic, take out trash, and play games. Countless others came to hide eggs, welcome people from the community, help with parking, and throw trash bags into the dumpster. So many served, and serve we did! So many people from our community came to the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a way for us to be the church to others.

This year, one of my favorite pieces of our hunt was the story time beforehand and a change in our pattern—empty eggs. Buz this year dressed as a Roman guard, who found the tomb empty and went looking frantically for the missing body. He thought the body was stolen. I played the part of one of the disciples, who heard the tomb was empty, then saw Jesus

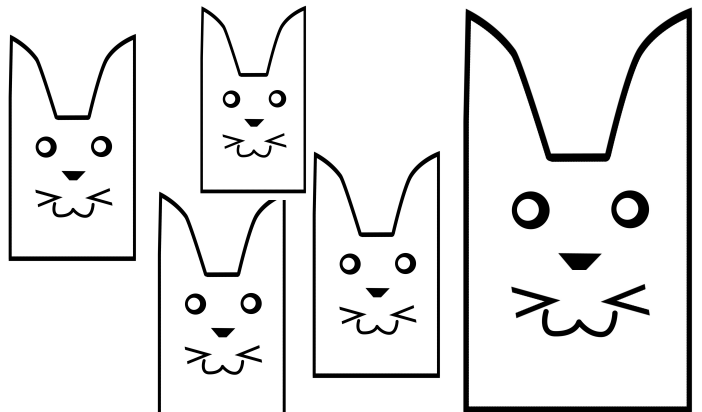
in a home with them. She explained to this Roman guard that Jesus' body wasn't stolen. But he was risen. “Risen?” We might wonder. What does that really mean? The logistics of it all can confuse children and adults alike. Where there was a body, there is none now. Jesus is not dead. He is alive. He is risen!

When the children went to open their Easter eggs this year, they probably were surprised too. The eggs were empty. Where did the candy go? Was it stolen? Did we forget to stuff the eggs? No. Instead, the children after collecting empty eggs, turned their eggs in for one of our “bunny bags” filled with goodies. It's not the same thing as resurrection, but it's a lesson, a reminder that sometimes tombs are left empty, eggs are left empty because there is something more to come.

There is joy at an Easter Egg Hunt, even when there are empty eggs. The joy is not found in the prize inside, but in the journey, the joy of finding something that was hidden, lost.

Thank you for all that you have done and all that you do to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. Your service inspires and humbles me to reach out more in our community! In deep gratitude,

Anna Fulmer



Children's Ministry News

We will begin the month of May by hearing Jesus' story of two houses. One house built on rock, and the other built on sand. Our classes will discuss "building" our lives on a strong foundation of a life centered on Christ.

The children will also read the **parable of the wealthy landowner**, and what it means to be generous and fair. We will learn how to share with others not only things we have, but our time as well.

We will end the month of May by learning ways to put our faith into actions. Our children will hear the story of James' letter explaining what it means to follow Jesus. We will learn that we can do this in our day to day life by helping and welcoming others, sharing what we have, and using kind words when talking to not only our friends, but also strangers. They will discuss that this is the way Jesus wants us to live.

In Children's church, we will continue our Sunday school lesson for that day. We will have extra activities to go along with the lessons, as well as other activities for the children.

We could use some extra helpers!

If you are interested in helping, please let Lynn Hennig or Anna Fulmer know.



Save the Date:

Vacation Bible School: Abundance Orchard

June 26-29, 2017

Registration is Open

Vacation Bible School is June 26-29, 9-11:30 am.

Our theme is Abundance Orchard. We will be studying the theme of food in the Old Testament. We need lots of donations, volunteers, and prayers! **To register a child, go to www.shpc.us.** For more information on donations, check out the donations flyer in the newsletter.

Graduation Sunday and Senior Breakfast

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 9 am

We need people to make casseroles, bring fruit and goodies!

Breakfast Needs: Any flavor muffins, fruit, donut holes, and breakfast casseroles!
Please sign-up! Help celebrate our graduates!
email Cindy Campbell
(clcampbell59@gmail.com)
or sign-up on the new Christian Education bulletin board near Anna's office!



CAREGIVER SERIES PLANNING = COMPASSION

Three local Presbyterian churches (Spring Hill, Cottage Hill, and Providence) are partnering together to sponsor a series of workshops to address legal, medical, financial, and other issues that complicate matters of aging, caring for a loved one, and planning for the future. This series is open to anyone in the community and is supported through a Mission Grant from the Presbytery of South Alabama.

Our first workshop will be "**Planning Equals Compassion**" **Sunday, April 30, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 2320 Schillinger Road S.** If anyone needs a ride, contact Amanda Dexter 583-4603 or mandapanda61@aol.com. The second workshop will be hosted here at Spring Hill and will focus on "Your Final To-Do List".

• • • • • Youth • • • • •

• Youth Group End of the Year Celebration •

• Saturday, May 6! Our plan is to have a beach and fishing day down at Dauphin Island. Please let Anna know if you are coming so we make arrangements. •

YOU CAN HELP WITH VBS.....NO ACT IS TOO SMALL!!!!

DONATE:

Your time...

1. Decorating:

Work Parties: Sun. June 11 (11:30-2 pm),

Sun. June 18, Youth Work

Party (6-7:30), Sat. June 24 (9 am-12)

2. Clean-Up on the

afternoon of June 29
(11:30-2 pm)

3. Set-up Thank You Pizza for Volunteers on

Thursday morning 11-12

4. By Praying!

Items:

7 Packs of Elastic String for
Bracelets

Two White Flat Bedsheets

400 Small Bottled Water

200 Regular Size Bottled Water

400 Small, Colorful Paper Plates

Small Snacks for Backpack for Kids (Children
will pack backpacks during week)

4 large cartons of Goldfish crackers

7 bags Rold Gold Pretzels

8 tins of Sister Shubert Pigs in a Blanket (if
donate put in freezer)

3 Bags of Apples

Purple Seedless Grapes (rinsed and pulled
apart from stems)–Delivered to Bullard
Building Kitchen on Sun. June 25

Green Seedless Grapes (rinsed and pulled
apart from stems)–Delivered to
Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun.
June 25

3 Packs of Baby Carrots–Delivered
to Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun.
June 25

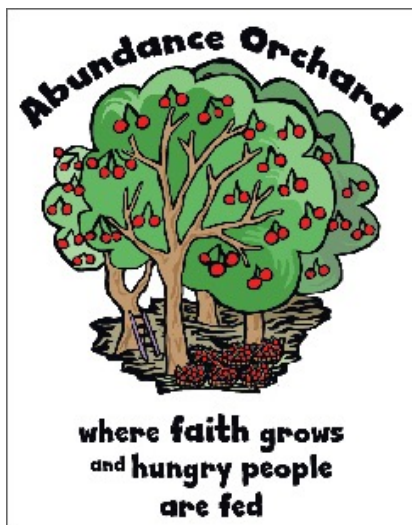
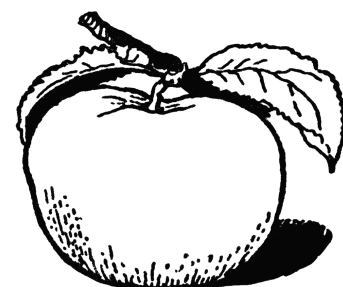
3 Vegetable Trays–Delivered to
Bullard Building Kitchen on
Sun. June 25

*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
Anna's door.

All items (excluding grapes) may be
delivered to the MISSION DROP OFF
no later than June 20.

If you would like items
back, make sure to put
your name on them!





Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m.

All Presbyterian Women are invited to Presbyterian Women's Officer Installation and Lunch on May 10 at

10:30 a.m. The lesson and meeting will be in the sanctuary followed by a delicious lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations through your circle chairpersons or call the church office.

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

Important dates:

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

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY MAY 2017

7 Matt. 28: 16-20

14 Matt. 18:1-17

21 Matt. 8:18-27

28 Acts 1



Calendar for May



Memorials have been received for the following:

- Irene Fue
- Mary Anne Givhan
- Mary Beth Culp
- Burt Stodghill
- Sybil Smith
- Howard Stephens

From the following:

- McLeod Turner
- Beth & Henry Morrissette
- Billy & Sue McLean
- Barbara Drey
- Ruth Fitzgerald
- Barbara Funderburk
- Donna Smith
- Mack & Betty Graham

Calendar for May 2017	
2	Committees
3	Presbyterian Coordinating Team – 9:30 am Women's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care – 12:30 pm.
4	Writing and Spirituality – 3:30 p.m.
7	Graduation Sunday Senior Breakfast – 9:00 a.m. Communion
9	Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
10	Presbyterian Women Officer Installation and Lunch – 10:30 a.m.
14	Commitment Sunday
16	Session – 6:00 p.m. Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
19	Mary B. Austin Elementary School 5th Grade Honors Day
20	Yeoman Workday
21	Lemonade Under the Trees
22	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
23	Mobile Singing Children Banquet
29	Memorial Day – Church Office closed
30	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:00 a.m.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
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www.shpc.us

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