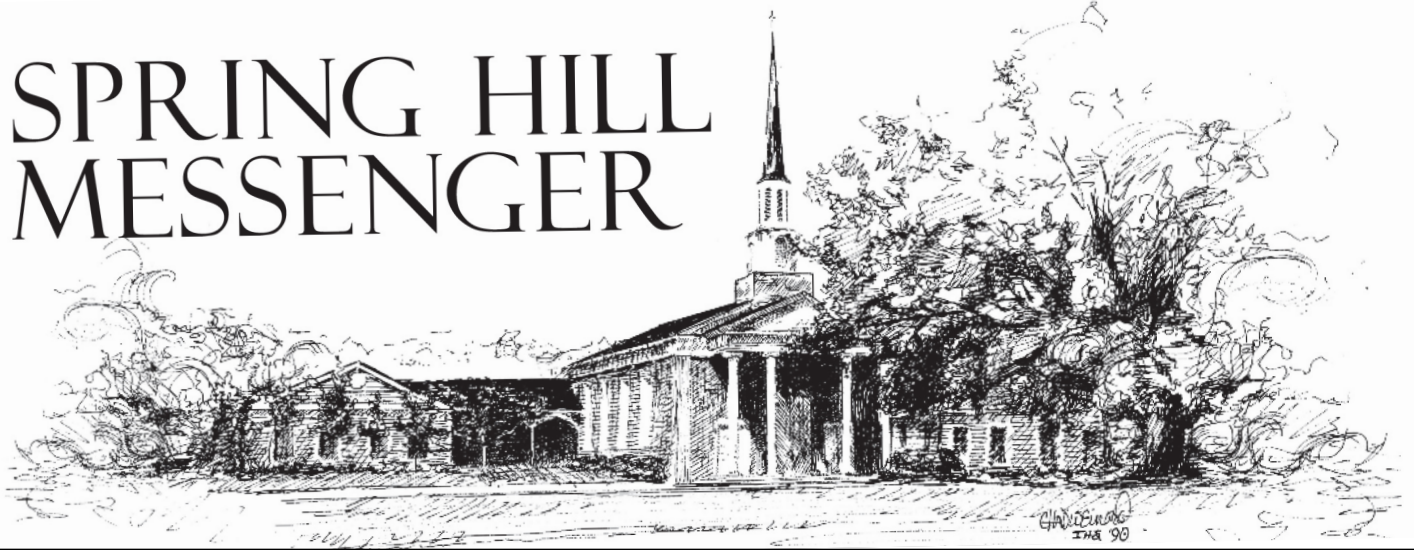


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 83, Number 14, May, 2018

A PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY: THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Family,

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord..."

"Bind us in the Spirit's tether..."

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love..."

You may recognize some or all of these words from popular hymns about the Holy Spirit. Each of them sing about the Spirit's work of uniting us as a community. During this month of May we remember and celebrate the holy day of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early Church as told in the book of Acts. In that story, the activity of the Spirit is seen through wondrous signs among the disciples such as tongues of fire and speaking in various languages. But these biblical fireworks are just the "side effects" of the more potent and powerful main work of the Spirit: pulling a diverse group of people together as the Church. Pentecost happened for a specific reason: to give birth to the community of faith.

We live in a season in which many people are on a search for deeper spiritual lives. Some turn to traditional religious sources looking for answers, but more and more, many are turning away, to more "new age" practices, mystic symbolism, and personalized rituals.

For Christians, the story of Pentecost offers a helpful (and possibly corrective) reminder to such spiritual quests. Specifically, Pentecost tells us that if we are truly seeking to connect with the Spirit we need each other, because the work of the Spirit is to draw us together.

Though the journey of faith may at times include important periods of solitude or silence, ultimately the Spirit calls us together in unity. Biblically speaking, the Spirit, gathers, equips, inspires, encourages, and binds the community of faith. When we are experiencing times

of spiritual longing or hunger it may be appropriate to turn to particular readings or practices, but if such resources do not in the end lead us into a deeper sense of community with our neighbor, then we are right to question with they are truly "of the Spirit" or not.

The Apostle Paul writes about this spiritual journey of unity and the characteristics of the community that it inspires: "...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

What does the "unity of the Spirit" look like today? What does the "bond of peace" look like in your life? Maybe it means connecting with the next generation of our family of faith (the Senior Breakfast and Graduate Sunday are on May 6, our children's choirs will sing on May 20, and now is the time to sign up as a VBS volunteer). Maybe it means employing your physical strength to serve a neighbor in need (the Blood Drive is also on May 6 and our work at the food panty—"Feeding



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Maybe it means opening your doors and showing hospitality to strangers (we are hosting several end-of-the-year celebrations for Girls Scouts, May 14; Spring Hill Preschool, May 16; Goodwill/Easter Seals, May 17; May B. Austin, May 18; and Mobile Singing Children, May 21).

Maybe your quest for a more integrated spiritual life means following the call of the Spirit deeper and deeper into relationship with others in this church family, in your own family, in your neighborhood, your place of work, and among your brothers and sisters in the whole human family. Maybe it means speaking with and listening to others who are very very different than you are and finding there a shared experience of humility, gentleness, patience, love, unity, and peace.

My prayer is that this season of Pentecost will lead us all, as a family of faith, into a spiritual adventure, binding us together as one!

Grace and Peace,

Paste a Buz here



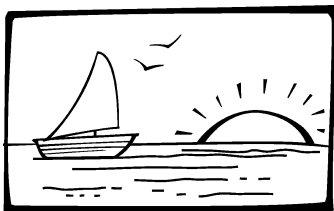
GRADUATION SUNDAY AND SENIOR BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 9 am

Everyone is invited!

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

Want to help? Contact Deb Fry
or sign up in the hallway.



Youth Group End of the Year Celebration Saturday, May 5!

Our plan is to have a bay day down at the Baymillers' home. We will leave the church at 10 am and return at 3 pm. We will swim, kayak, fish, and hang out! Please let Anna know if you are coming so we can make arrangements.



Children's Sunday School

To begin the month of **May**, our children's Sunday school and children's church classes will be talking about GIFTS!! We will discuss our favorite gifts we have received and gifts we have given others. We will also consider gifts we have been given to us by God and how we can use them to help others.

On **May 13**, our classes will hear the story from the book of Acts on choosing a replacement for the disciple Judas. The children will discuss what it means to be a church leader and how they can be good leaders.

Our children will learn about Pentecost on **May 20**. We will discuss how the children think the disciples felt when the flames touched them. We will also talk about how we celebrate Pentecost in our church today.

To finish out the month of May, the Sunday school and children's church classes will learn how the first church was formed by followers of Jesus, and how the church has grown so much. We will also continue to discuss the importance of sharing and showing kindness and compassion to others.

Leaves Abound!

Dear Friends,

It has been a whirlwind April! We celebrated Easter and the good news that Jesus is alive. A week later, I got married. And now, I am here to tell you about the wonderful things happening this summer! May is often the time when we look to summer—to summer break, vacation, beach days, and more. Here at SHPC, we have a full and fun summer too. The first week of June, three adults and eight youth will be going to Montreat High School Conferences for our fourth year in a row. This conference is for youth who have completed 8-12 grades. This year, the theme is “Lift Every Voice.” We will be exploring voices that are often silenced—voices that we need to hear from our Bible and our world. Lauren Peters, our campus minister at USA is one of the directors of the conferences, so we are excited for all she has planned for us!

Then, two weeks later, we will come together to host children for a week of Vacation Bible School, June 25-28. We are continuing the theme “Abundance Orchard” looking this year at New Testament scriptures related to food. We will start Monday eating breakfast with Jesus and some of his disciples on the lakeshore, then Tuesday, we will have lunch with Zacchaeus and Jesus, we will grab dinner, Wednesday at Mary and Martha’s house and see how Jesus handles a conflict. Thursday, we will have a party as we hear about a party where guests did not attend, so everyone is invited.

One of my favorite parts of Vacation Bible School is watching how people of all generations come together. People donate items. Youth and adults work together creating fun games, art projects, and stories that engage children from across our community. At times, we wonder, “Is this going to be enough?” Do we have enough time, enough volunteers, enough energy to make this happen—and yet loaves abound. God provides. I hope you will consider getting involved! VBS is not only a great way to reach out to children in our community; it’s a great way to get to grow closer to our church family. If you are interested, please contact me or Amanda Dexter.

Finally, for the first time this year, we have a group of middle schoolers going to the Montreat Middle School Conference. Montreat Middle School Conference is not in Montreat, but in Maryville, TN on the campus of Maryville College. Their theme is “Living Mosaics”—it will be neat to see how all of the pieces fit together. Because I will be on a honeymoon during this trip, two other adult leaders, Stu Rubio and Rudolph Hall will be leading the trip. I am excited to see all that they learn and bring back to us from their experiences. As we enter into this busy season of May, I hope you will pray for all of these exciting opportunities happening in our church!

Grace and Peace,

Anna Fulmer Duke

Vacation Bible School is June 25-28, 2018.

Our theme is Abundance Orchard. We will be studying stories of Jesus eating with people in the New Testament.

We need lots of donations, volunteers, and prayers! To register a child, go to www.shpc.us.



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



Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

ACTS OF HOPE: JUST DO IT!

SHPC Work Day at Feeding the Gulf Coast

May brings another opportunity for us to help the community with our Acts of Hope at Feeding the Gulf Coast food bank. The food bank, a member of the larger national organization, Feeding America, distributes needed food items to more than 400 agencies such as church pantries, soup kitchens, senior citizen day care centers, and other nonprofit organizations located on the Gulf Coasts of MS, AL, & FL and extending northward into central AL. Community groups and individuals donate canned and boxed goods to meet year 'round needs. Also local grocery store partners donate food and volunteers glean from local farms & gardens to provide fresh produce. The Bank even has a vegetable garden on site which volunteers and youth groups tend and harvest.

Feeding the Gulf Coast personnel respond to local disasters bringing food and water. They support the Back Pack program in multiple counties during school months and provide prepared meals through the summer at specific areas with the Summer Food Service Program. A lot of food in various packaging passes into and out of the Bank in a week's time and volunteers are needed to keep the flow going.

Saturday, May 26, is OUR day to help. We can meet in the church parking lot and go together or we can gather at the facility in Theodore at 9 AM. Wear comfortable shoes; there is only standing and walking at this venue. The Bank sets an age minimum of 12 years. We will finish by 12 noon. There are bathroom facilities but bring your own snack or water.

Our church will collect non-perishable food stuffs in the red barrel located inside the Brides' Room in anticipation of this food bank work day. Donated food is measured in pounds. Let's meet a goal of greater than 300 lbs of donated food. It's doable; let's do it!!

Blood Drive

Our Spring Blood Drive will be Sunday May 8. The Blood Mobile will be here from 8:30 - 12:00 pm. Save a life!!



Art in the library

Art in the library during the months of May and June will be the work of Wanda Lawrence. Wanda is one of our newer members at SHPC. She is active in our music ministry and has served as substitute organist on several occasions. She is excited to share her creative efforts in Fabric Art. Over the last couple of years, she and a friend have been making small quilts for charity utilizing the stash of fabric that all sewers have. Her work will include machine embroidery, piecing and quilting. Please take a moment to go by and view Wanda's work and let her know how much we appreciate her sharing with us!

CURRENT EVENTS Sunday School Classes In May, 2018

May 6 **Senior Breakfast** (church wide)

May 13 Enneagram with Buz, Anna, and friends

May 20 Enneagram with Buz, Anna, and friends

May 27 Enneagram with Buz, Anna, and friends

PW Presbyterian Women

Coordinating Team meets Wednesday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m. All Presbyterian Women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Officer Installation and Lunch on May 9 at 10:30 a.m.

#1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room

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

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

May 9 - Birthday Luncheon and Installation of Officers and budget presentation.

June 13-15 - AL/MS Women's Conference - Briarwood PC - Jackson MS

August 2-5 - Church-wide Gathering, Louisville, MS

Statement as of March 2018	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$886,720
Year to date received	203,319
Other receipts	7,846
Total Receipts	\$211,165
Benevolences	13,997
Salaries and services	136,159
Programs	9,035
Office expenses	7,222
General & plant services	56,222
Other	8,835
Total Expenses	\$231,470
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$20,305



**Memorials have been received
for the following:**

John Peterson
Linda Fletcher
Paula Johnson
Norma Calder

From the following:

Cort & Susan Schlichting
Royce & Pat Ray
Charles & Linda Langston
Nick Vrakelos
Sue Jardine
Sam Strada
Ruth Fitzgerald
Jo Harrison

Honoraria have been received for:

Ruth Fitzgerald
Bron Dixon

From:

Sara Martin

Church Calendar MAY 2018	
1	Committees
2	Presbyterian Coordinating Team – 9: a.m. Congregational Care 1:30 p.m.
3	Writing and Spirituality – 2: 00 p.m.
5	End of Youth Group Party at the Baymillers – 10:00 to 3:00 pm.
6	Graduation Sunday- Senior Breakfast Blood Drive
8	Bible Study – Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Officer Installation and Lunch – 10:30 a.m.
15	Session – 6:00 p.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m.
16	Preschool Program – Noon
18	Mary B. Austin Elementary School 5th Grade Honors Day
20	Communion Lemonade Under the Trees following worship
21	Newsletter Deadline Mobile Singing Children Banquet
28	Memorial Day – Office Closed
29	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:00 a.m.



We Rejoice

We rejoice with Rev. Anna Fulmer
and Brian Duke on their marriage in
Rock Hill, South Carolina on April 7.



**We Share
in Sorrow.**

The prayers and sympathy of the
congregation are with Tim Holston,
in the death of his aunt, Nell Damon,
on March 25 and with the family of
Paula Johnson in her death on
April 9.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
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Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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