



SPRING HILL MESSENGER MAY 2022

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” -Philippians 1:3-5

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

Every time I write a letter, newsletter article, church-wide email, or other congregational communication, I always begin with this same language: “Church Family.” Over the past 8 ½ years, this church has truly become family for me as well as for Ryann, Lohi, and Wilson. You have welcomed us in and taught us how to boldly welcome all in Christ’s name. You have nurtured us through warm friendships, beautiful music, inspired worship, engaging learning, deep service, strong leadership, joyful smiles, and delicious meals. This church family has become our home and shaped us into the family we are today, all of which makes sharing news of transition all the more difficult.

Throughout my time serving as your senior pastor, there have often been occasions when other congregations have reached out asking me to consider moving to serve with them. Each and every time, I have declined the invitation immediately because I cannot imagine a better congregation and community in which to serve as a pastor. However, I was recently approached by my alma mater, Presbyterian College, about a new position that they have created, the Dean of Spiritual Life and Chaplain. This position will be charged with championing the college’s relationship with the Presbyterian Church by overseeing the pastoral campus ministry for students and staff, some classroom teaching, and representing the college in the larger church to build partnerships with congregations, presbyteries, and other institutions. After much tear-filled, prayerful discernment, I feel that God is calling me to this new venture in ministry.

While we are excited about this next chapter, my family and I are also heartbroken over sharing this news with you, because we love this church family so deeply. This transition will mean that over the summer, we will be moving to South Carolina. I will continue serving as your senior pastor for the next seven weeks with my final Sunday in the pulpit being June 12. Our Session and Personnel Committee will be hard at work in the days ahead to secure an interim pastor as soon as possible to guide SHPC through the time of transition. You may already know that our associate pastor, Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke will be on sabbatical this summer from May 16 to August 15. The timeframe for my transition means that I will still be here through one month of her sabbatical time. The hope is that an interim pastor will be able to begin this summer without much, if any, of a gap in pastoral leadership.

This move certainly comes sooner than I had imagined. Last summer, the focus of my sabbatical was imagining the new adventures that we would share together for years to come. Over the fall and winter, that continued to be my focus before I was even aware that this position at PC had been created. My plans were to be here in ministry for much longer, but as is often the case, God’s call catches us off guard in ways we never imagined.

While this transition is occurring sooner than I would have planned, I am extremely proud of the ministry we have shared together over the past 8 ½ years. Following a difficult split in the church a decade ago, we worked together to rebuild the bonds of trust and reconnect to the joys of our Presbyterian roots. Together we have strengthened our mission and outreach ministries, redesigned our worship pattern, redeveloped a culture of generosity and faithful stewardship, welcomed many new members, and created new opportunities for intergenerational faith formation. We have baptized babies, married couples (young and old), said goodbye to loved ones, and proclaimed the gospel with both words and actions. We celebrated our history with a 75th anniversary in grand style and moved toward our future with a capital campaign to welcome the next generation. We have even navigated through the last two years of disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic and come out strong on the other end. While I am proud of the work we have done together, I am also keenly aware that I am leaving our church family in a time of remarkable strength thanks to an outstanding church staff and great leadership on our Session and Board of Deacons. None of this makes it any easier to leave, but it reminds me that God will continue to guide you into the future that is already becoming a reality.

Of course, along with the gratitude for all the good gifts of our years together, there are also regrets for opportunities not fully realized. At present, my greatest regret is that time did not afford me the chance to sit down and share this news with you in person before you read it here. While that was not possible to do, I hope to spend a great deal of my time over the next few weeks meeting in person with as many members of our church family as possible. So, please let me know when you are available for coffee, lunch, or a visit at church or your home. Seven or eight weeks together does feel far too short, but in truth it is fairly typical for pastoral transitions like this.

In weighty moments like these, I am reminded of the closing words of Psalm 121: **“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.”** Like the image of a labyrinth, these words from the psalm remind us that God is ever present through all the transitions in our life-long journey of faith. Whether “going out” or “coming in,” God is there to guide the adventures of our lives, especially through the unexpected twists and turns. My prayer for you, my church family, is that we will remember the ways that God has held us through transitions in the past and that these memories will mentor our hopes for the future into which God is leading us already. Know that I am and will forever be so grateful for this church family, who took a risk years ago on a 30-year-old with only a drop of experience, and in doing so taught me how to be a more faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,



Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, Senior Pastor

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

Ways to Show Compassion through Vacation Bible School

DONATE: Your time...

- Decorating: Work Party: Sun. June 26 (9:00 am) in Gym
- Clean-Up on the afternoon of June 30 (11:30-2 pm)
- Set-up Thank You Pizza for Volunteers on Thursday morning 11-12
- During VBS June 27-30
- By Praying!



Items: We will be creating care packages for women at **McKemie Place** so would love:
New white bath towels and washcloths & sample size shampoo and conditioner

For VBS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 200 Small Water Bottles | 150 Regular Size Water Bottles |
| 300 Small, Colorful Paper Plates | 3 Costco/Sam's Sized Box of Fruit Snacks |
| 4 large cartons of individual packets of Goldfish | 7 bags Rold Gold Pretzels |
| 4 Costco or Sam's Boxes of Granola Bars | 60 String Cheeses |
| 3 Bags of Apples | |
| Purple Seedless Grapes & Green Seedless Grapes (rinsed and pulled apart from stems)— | |
| Delivered to Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun. June 26 | |

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 the Christian Education bulletin board. All items (excluding perishables) may be delivered to Susan Tomlinson's office no later than June 17.

Dear Friends,

Right now, we hold so many different things together at once. We grieve because we are going to miss Buz and the Wilcoxon family. We celebrate Buz's work and presence among us and all of the wonderful things he will do at Presbyterian College. I know for me, it is going to be hard to say goodbye. I have only known our church with Buz Wilcoxon; Buz came in December of 2013 and I came the next September. We have done ministry together at SHPC for the past 7.5 years. I know that as a church, we will navigate this transition with faith, strength, imagination, courage, and hope, but that doesn't mean it still isn't hard.

I know that many of you are probably feeling anxious and uncertain because we will be in a "transitional" time. Transitions are hard; as humans, we want certainty. We have been through so many transitions as a church the past few years with COVID; can't life just stay ordinary and constant for a while? I like to think that in the transitions what becomes abundantly clear is that God is our constant. God is with us when we pass through waters, storms, when we walk through fire. God hems us in before and behind us; God is above and below us. God is with us during this transition, and I know that God will guide us in the uncertain and shaky times. As chair of our presbytery's Committee on Ministry, part of the work my committee does is guide churches through transitions. If you have any questions about this process, feel free to ask me. I am sure we will be talking about it a lot in the coming months!

As we prepare to say goodbye to Buz, I am also still preparing for a Sabbatical. I hate in many ways that I am going on Sabbatical during this transition time (I promise for me, this isn't goodbye but see you in three months!). However, I trust in God's timing and am telling myself it is only three months. Know that I am praying with and for you while I am away. We have so many amazing leaders who have stepped up to provide stability and leadership while I am away. A huge thank you to

- ◆ Our VBS Coordinating Team: Ruth Harper, Lee Lagomarsino, Jodi Morvant, and Dianne Oveson who will lead us through Vacation Bible School with compassion and love.
- ◆ Our Montreat trip leaders: Mary Alyce Davis and Patrick Jacobs (High School) and Edwin Perry and Daniel McGough (Middle School)
- ◆ The Christian Education Committee who has already begun making plans for the fall and will continue to guide the spiritual development of our church.
- ◆ For our amazing staff who are ready to make nametags and complete last-minute details for our trips and VBS.

Our church is so blessed with so many amazing leaders, especially YOU. We will go through this transition together, strengthened and connected thanks to you—with God guiding us together.

Many people have asked, what are you planning on doing during your Sabbatical? I know that I will be thinking about you at home and praying for you constantly. I will also be working to learn more about how I can support you in this transition. In addition, here are some of my plans:

First, I am planning to read and write—my hope is that this time gives me space to slow down and engage in deep thinking that I don't always get the chance to do. Second, TRAVEL! We have three big trips planned. First, we will take a road trip to Chicago stopping to see friends along the way in Nashville and Indianapolis. Later in June, we will travel to Colorado to see my sister and other family, visit Steamboat Springs and Telluride. In July, we are planning to then spend two weeks on the coast of South Carolina in Murrells Inlet visiting family who lives nearby and enjoying the water and waves. My prayer is that this time will give me energy and vision for what is to come together.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

Youth Ministry at SHPC

Sunday May 1: Confirmation Sunday, Session will meet with our Confirmands at 9:00 am in the gym, 10:30 will be worship, and following worship we will have a reception to celebrate!

Sunday, May 15: Graduation Sunday, Senior Breakfast at 9:00 am, Worship at 10:30 am honoring our graduates. Montreat High School Meeting following worship in the Fellowship Hall

Montreat Trip Meetings

Montreat High School: Youth (and parents of youth attending) and chaperones attending Montreat High School, join us **May 15** after church in the Fellowship Hall. Government Street Presbyterian Church's youth will also be joining us as we go over last minute details for our trip.

Montreat Middle School: Youth (and parents of youth attending) and chaperones attending Montreat Middle School, join us July 17 at Government Street Presbyterian at 11:45 (following church) for a meeting to go over last minute details for our trip.



2022 Graduates



Graduation Sunday will be May 15. Join us at 9:00 am to celebrate our high school seniors at our Senior Breakfast. If you have a graduate (from high school, college, or other program), please let Marcia know at marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org, so we can include it in our June and July Newsletter.

“Courage is the power to let go of the familiar”
- Raymond Linquist

Church-Wide Sunday School

Sunday, May 1 with Doug Marshall the President of Presbyterian Home for Children. Doug will be joining us to share about what is happening at the Children's Home. You don't want to miss this special event! This class will be held in the Terry Room of the Edington Building

Sunday, May 8 with Rev. Eugenia Gamble: Join us to hear about Eugenia Gamble's new book, *“Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments”* in the Fellowship Hall. Signed books will be available for \$12.

MEMORIALS

Peg Heyman Bill Rawson Donna Smith

Ruth Fitzgerald
Forrest & Ann Wilson
Bruce & Barbara Maynard
Frank & Jane Callahan
John & Janet Bailey
Trudy White
Gary & Melba Rehm
Dick & Lila Pennington
Cathy & Tom Cooney

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Jeff and Cynthia Glidewell on the death of her mother, Donna Smith on April 4, 2022.



Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Cammie Belue, Kaye Bradshaw, Everett Bolling, Levi Bolling, Frank Callahan, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Matt Coleman, Ruth Fitzgerald, Amy Britton Foshee, Ali Fry, Ann Hafner, Caleb Harrison, Charles Hartley, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, John Langus, Bill Layfield, Wanda Lawrence, Celia Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Sara Martin, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Emma Mundrloh, Mary Owen, Carol Rawl, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Patricia Trammell Stinson, Pat Stoll, Connie Trawick, Gayle Underwood, Nicholas Vrakelos, Babs Warren, Helen Wells, 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.

Statement as of March 31, 2022

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$	863,515
Year-to-date Received	\$	236,794
Other Receipts	\$	7,825
Total Receipts	\$	244,619
Benevolences	\$	16,642
Salaries and Services	\$	129,127
Programs	\$	3,720
Office Expenses	\$	5,331
General and Plant Services	\$	55,678
Other	\$	8,962
Total Expenses	\$	219,459
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$	25,160

Art in the Library

The Library Art for May and June will be representative of work done by our **Art for All** group on Monday mornings. **Art for All** is an inclusive arts education program for adults offered in collaboration by The Mobile Arts Council, Full Life Ahead Foundation, The Central Arts Collective, L'Arche Mobile, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Eastern Shore Arts Center and Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council. The goal of the program is to bring people of all abilities together to express their creativity and develop their skills in a variety of art media including acrylics, graphics, watercolors, clay and more. Classes at Springhill Presbyterian are offered on Monday's from 10-11:00 in the Bullard Building taught by Carolyn Greene, assisted by Bonney Irwin, Gayla Wiik and Luann Rice. If members of the congregation would to participate or volunteer please call Carolyn Greene at 251-422-5412. If you have any questions or improvements, please call Bonney Irwin at 251-680-2060.

Boy Scouts

Did you know our Boy Scout troop #85 is 77 years old? We were formed in 1945 (one year after SHPC began) and we meet in the Edington Building from 7-8:30 PM. Please come visit and bring a friend! For more information, call Susan Tomlinson at 251-209-0792 or email

susan48tomlinson@gmail.com



Interfaith Build 2022



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry that has invited our church (along with other local faith groups), to join them in an Act of Hope mission to build an affordable home for a local family here in Mobile. The Mobile Interfaith Build will begin with groundbreaking in May. As a participating congregation, we are looking for volunteers who would like to assist in this endeavor.

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School



June 27-30, 9:00-11:30 am

K4-5th grade (must be 4 or older)

To register go to www.shpc.us

10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL • 342-1550

Deadline to register for is June 1, 2022.

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School Worship- Confirmation/ Communion	2 Outreach	3 Committees MSC Christian Ed.	4 PWCT Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 <small>Mother's Day</small> Sunday School Worship	9	10 MSC	11 PW Birthday Lunch Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	12	13	14
15 Sunday School Senior Breakfast Worship- Graduation Sunday	16 MSC Anna's Sabbatical begins	17 MSC Session Diaconate	18 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	19	20	21 Yeoman
22 Sunday School Worship- Presbyterian Sunday	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 MSC Banquet	25 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	26 Spiritual Writing Group	27	28
29 Worship	30 Memorial Day Church Office closed	31	Worship starts at 10:30 AM Sunday Schools are at 9:00 AM Vespers 4:00 PM Youth/ Blast are at 11:30 AM Youth/Children's Choirs are at 4:00 PM			