



SPRING HILL MESSENGER May 2023

Resurrection

On the Second Sunday of Easter (April 16, 2023) we read the story of “Doubting Thomas” (John 20.19-31). The celebration of Easter and working on that Thomas sermon got me thinking about the resurrection. On that Sunday morning, I read Diana Butler Bass’ comments about this text. She inspires me. I am drawing on what she wrote* in my article. First this from Wendell Berry’s poem, “Manifesto.”

So, Friends, every day do something
That won’t compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who doesn’t deserve it.

Resurrection involves death. For the new to come, old things have to die. Faith is a kind of liberating madness, the courage to say no and a leap into what you don’t entirely understand before it unfolds.

When we think about the season of Easter, fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, we think about resurrection. But don’t ask, “What is resurrection?” But rather, ask “Where does the resurrection show up in your life? How do we practice resurrection?”

Some people like the idea that this story, with its description of the nail holes and the side wound, are proof of the resurrection. The “Doubting Thomas” story is not proof of the resurrection. This story invites us to see the unpredictable Jesus at the dinner table, during long walks, and on fishing trips. There is no rhyme or reason, no predictability and we certainly don’t control it. But one thing we do know, wherever Jesus shows up, his friends know joy and surprises and wonder. We are changed forever.

Maybe the story is less about Thomas and his doubts and more about the risen Jesus having the courage to let his friends touch his deepest wounds.

Peace.
Cary

*Diana Butler Bass, *The Cottage*, April 16, 2023

Dear SHPC Friends,

With graduations and the school year ending, I know families are as busy as ever. Here at the church, we are busy preparing to say goodbye to our high school graduates at **Senior Breakfast on May 7** and honoring them in worship during **Graduation Sunday**. We are also preparing for the summer trips and Vacation Bible School. We have nine youth attending our high school Montreat Youth Conference in June and four for the middle school trip in July. Not to mention our VBS Committee is doing a fantastic job preparing for Vacation Bible School June 19-22. If you want to get involved make sure to **attend the VBS Work Party after church (and the church-wide potluck) on May 21** and check out the donations needed in this newsletter. The theme for VBS this year is “Passport to Peace.” Peace has been on my mind a lot this spring. With such a hectic May, peace is what we need now more than ever in our daily lives. Looking at the news, peace is what we need in our world now more than ever too.

In the Gospel of John, peace pops up quite a lot towards the end. After Jesus appears to Mary, the very same night, the disciples are locked up, afraid—and Jesus comes to them saying, “Peace be with you.” He tells them this not once but twice. He has them touch his hands and side, to see the scars on his body. I know they certainly needed peace in that moment—peace, forgiveness, and hope to leave that locked up room and go out to proclaim God’s love to the world. Thomas was not there with them, so a week later, Jesus comes back to him, saying again “Peace be with you.” What a gift, that Christ comes to Thomas and gives him exactly what he needs—an experience with Jesus and peace.

In John 14, as Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples, he tells them, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” What is it about peace? What is the peace that Christ gives to us—not as the world gives? I like to think that Christ’s peace is more than just happiness. Happiness is ephemeral, temporary—it can come and go like the weather. Instead, the peace Christ gives has meat, grit behind it. It helps us see beyond the present circumstances to carry hope in the dark. Christ’s peace is rooted in resurrection—in the knowledge that death is defeated and nothing can separate us from God’s love. Christ’s peace helps us work for an end of violence and suffering here on earth because we know we are the hands and feet of Christ bearing peace, hope, and love.

In the busyness of May, stop. Slow down. Breathe in God’s peace, and breathe out spreading Christ’s peace to the world. Christ’s peace does not come when we have it all figured out; instead it comes when we are locked up and afraid. Christ’s peace comes when we need it the most.

Peace be with you,

Anna

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.” --Matthew 5:9

Creation Care



As you perhaps have heard, we are now a certified Earth Care Congregation through February 2024, one of 305 in the PC(USA). How did that happen -- and what does it mean?

The roots for this lie back in Spring of 2021 with a series of classes on environmental issues that Judy Stout organized for the Current Issues class. They were so well received that several more classes followed that Fall.

With the encouragement of Anna and Buz this led to initial explorations in the Mission Committee about our environmental activities. But it became apparent that the committee's plate was already quite full, so the Session established an Earth Care Task Force. With members from Missions (Megan Rubio, Susan Abrams), Education (Wes Baldwin), Worship (Trey Morvant), and Plant Services (Bill Harris), this group undertook an audit, following guidelines from the PC(USA), to survey our earth care efforts.

What we discovered was that we were already doing quite a lot. With this, the Session decided to create a continuing committee, now called the Creation Care Team, to apply for Earth Care Congregation certification, and to continue and encourage the church's creation care efforts in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification program recognizes churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden. To become an Earth Care Congregation, our Session affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Certification thus honors the serious commitment we have made to care for God's earth.

"This congregation's activities and commitment brings hope to their community and indeed to the world. We believe that Spring Hill will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

What are some of the things we have done, and can continue to do, in our creation care efforts?

- * We have had outdoor vespers and in various ways attended to God's creation in our worship.
- * We have had environmentally oriented Sunday School classes, VBS activities, and discussion in confirmation classes.
- * We have upgraded our air-conditioning, installed LED lighting, and encouraged bluebirds and pollinators.
- * We have participated in community clean-ups with Baykeeper and at Mary B. Austin, and joined with the interfaith Gulf Coast Creation Care.

To learn more about our creation care efforts and join in, talk to any member of the Creation Care Team. To learn more about the Earth Care Congregations program, visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.





Calling all Presbyterian Women!

Join us on May 10th for our Birthday Service and Luncheon.

Who: All women members of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church are invited.

(You don't have to be in one of our church's Circles.)

When: Wednesday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. beginning with worship in the Sanctuary, followed by a delicious variety of salads at the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

What: During the worship service, we will receive donations for the annual Birthday Offering. Over the past 101 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted over 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people.

This year's theme for Presbyterian Women has been a study of *Celebrating Sabbath – Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. We have explored many expected and unexpected ways in which we can "take Sabbath." We close out our study with a focus on Sabbath and Community, led by our own Anna Fulmer-Duke. We hope you'll be a part of this special time for fellowship with the women in our congregation.

Art in the Library

We thank Elisa Baldwin for sharing her botanical drawings with us in the library during March and April. They are beautiful and really brightened our walls.

In May and June, we will welcome the artists of our Monday *Art for All* Group. This weekly lesson is sponsored by Full Life Ahead and taught by Caroline Greene assisted by Clair Hamlin and Bonney Irwin. There are some wonderful paintings to enjoy and we will host a reception for them and their families on June 5th from 2:30 – 4:00.



Summer Series

There will be new speakers each Sunday in June and August during the Sunday school hour. We will skip July to allow vacations to take over. Look for posters with the schedule in early May.

Current Issues

May 14: Part 1 – Pastor Nominating Committee Progress Report (Leslie Sweeney)

Part 2 – Celebrating Mother's Day by Looking at "Mothering Images of God" in Scripture – and Gifts from our own Mothers (Roots and Wings) (Dale Hair)

May 21: Youth Violence Prevention – Sara McGough shares her involvement with the SOAR Project at USA to create a model for curbing youth violence in our community.

MEMORIALS

Wanda Lawrence

Esther Lee Fox

Cort Burk Schlichting

Received from

Ted & Marcia Autterson
 Dick & Norma Baymiller
 Mitch & Sally Cobb
 Joe & Dale Hair
 Susan Richardson
 Dan & Nickelle Stoll
 Emily Thurston

Wes & Elisa Baldwin
 Ken & Buff Brown
 Andy & Judy Falls
 Luanne Rice
 Lewis & Barkley Shreve
 Sam Strada
 Bruce & Sylvia Weinard

Jane Williams

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with the family of Esther Lee Fox, upon her death on April 4, 2023.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Ernestine McElroy on the death of her brother-in-law David Stinson on April 7, 2023.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Deb Fry on the death of her mother, Elaine Kloss on April 10, 2023, in Florida.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Susan Schlichting on the death of her husband, Cort Schlichting on April 15, 2023.

Statement as of March 31, 2023	
Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 765,766
Year-to-date Received	\$ 243,581
Other Receipts	\$ 15,597
Total Receipts	\$ 259,178
Benevolences	\$ 15,409
Salaries and Services	\$ 115,504
Programs	\$ 3,203
Office Expenses	\$ 6,775
General and Plant Services	\$ 67,301
Other	\$ 6,809
Total Expenses	\$ 215,001
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ 44,177

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Neal Andrews, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Kaye Bradshaw, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Sheryne Massa Glicksman, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, Andrea Wiik Hinton, Bonney Irwin, Bill Layfield, Steve Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Gordon Marsh, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Emma Munderloh, Mary Owen, Bernice Riedeburg, 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 child in our Big Brother/Big Sister program: Milaishia.

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. On May 7, KidsLead will join the church for our Senior Breakfast honoring our high school seniors. May 28, we will have no KidsLead because of Memorial Day. In May, KidsLead will be led by Dianne and Jenny Oveson and Lindsay Alvarez.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Dates

May 7: Graduation Sunday; Senior Breakfast at 9:00 am; Montreat Meeting after Worship; Youth VBS Work Party at 6:00 pm

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. Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:00 am in the Youth Room upstairs in the Bullard Building. . May 7, our Youth will join the congregation for Senior Breakfast. May 28, there will be no Sunday School.

Montreat Trip Meetings

Montreat High School: Youth (and parents of youth attending) and chaperones attending Montreat High School, join us **May 7** after church in the Conference Room.

Montreat Middle School: Youth (and parents of youth attending) and chaperones attending Montreat Middle School, join us July 16 at SHPC at 11:45 (following church) for a meeting to go over last minute details for our trip. Let's plan to meet in the Conference

Graduation Sunday will be May 7. Join us at 9:00 am to celebrate the high school seniors at 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 them in our June and July Newsletter. **The deadline is May 25.**



BOY SCOUTS

If you are a youth ages 11 to 17 and are interested in camping, hiking, bike riding on trails, identifying plants and birds, and many other fun things, then we have the place for you! Come join SHPC's Boy Scout troop 85. We meet Monday nights at 7:00 in the Edington building. Information: Jason Dabbs 251-802-8880

Ways to Give: Vacation Bible School



DONATE:

Your time...

- Work Party: Sun. May 21 (11:30 am in Gym)
- Clean-Up on the afternoon of June 22 (11:30-2 pm)
- Set-up Thank You Pizza for Volunteers on Thursday morning 11-12
- During VBS June 19-22
- By Praying!

Items:

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| Old Magazines | 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 (rinsed and pulled apart from stems)—Delivered to Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun. June 18 | |
| Green Seedless Grapes (rinsed and pulled apart from stems)—Delivered to Bullard Building Kitchen on Sun. June 18 | |

If you are not interested in buying items, checks can always be made out to SHPC. Make the memo line: VBS

Mission Project Donations for VBS:

This year, our children will be packing hurricane buckets and hygiene kits that we can have ready in case a hurricane hits close to home. This is a project we are doing in coordination with our Mission Committee and the Presbytery. Below are the items we need. If you would prefer to donate money towards this project, we can also purchase items as well. Put in memo line: VBS. Here's what will go in each bucket/kit.

Cleanup Bucket (Value \$75)

- 1 — 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid* 4 — scouring pads
- 7 — sponges, assorted sizes 1 — scrub brush
- 1 — pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 — 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- 1 — liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
- 1 — bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 24-28 oz.
- 1 — 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50
- 1 — Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 5 — dust masks
- 2 - heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- 1 pair — work gloves
- 1 — 24 to 28 count roll heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
- 1 — bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol), 6-9 oz.

Hygiene Kit (Value \$15)

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels) 1 — washcloth
- 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper) 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

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.



Spring Hill
Presbyterian Church



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 19-22
9:00-11:30
AM

K4-5th grade (must be 4 or older)
10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL, 342-1550

TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.SHPC.US
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 1, 2023

May 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1 Outreach PNC	2	3 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	4	5	6 AA
7 Sunday Schools Graduation Sunday Worship Alphabet Generation VBS Work Party Youth Group Dinner	8 PNC	9	10 PW Birthday Celebration Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	11 Tai Chi	12 Mobile's Singing Children Spring Concert	13 AA
14 Sunday Schools Worship Mothers Day	15 PNC	16 Session Diaconate	17 Congregational Care Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	18 Tai Chi	19 Mary B. Austin Graduation	20 Yeoman Work- day AA
21 Sunday Schools Worship Fellowship Lunch	22 MSC Banquet PNC	23	24 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	25 Tai Chi	26	27 AA
28 Worship	29 Office Closed Memorial Day	30	31 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir			