

SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

November, 2018

Gratitude: Relational not Material

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Family,

In this month of November we are surrounded by the theme of Thanksgiving, which at first glance can seem like a good thing. After all, isn't thankfulness a positive virtue that we want our society to aspire toward? Well, yes...sort of. Gratitude or thankfulness has the potential to form us into humble, loving, generous people. But as our culture leans into the Thanksgiving season we are presented with a reason for thanksgiving that is rooted in a modern materialism that is quite at odds with our Christian faith. Commercials that tug at the heart in order to sell you a new smart phone, door buster sales that reinforce the "idolatry of possessions," and images of lavish worldly abundance that ignore the real hunger of those struggling to make it in our world—these are all patterns of commerce that besiege us so much in this season that it's hard to see through them. But deep down, they all assume that our thanksgiving is and should be for the things that we have—material possessions.

In the Bible, however, thanksgiving is rooted in a fundamentally different cause: what God has done for us. In the Old Testament, the ancient Hebrews respond to God's pattern of liberation and protection with Psalms of Thanksgiving. In the New Testament, the early Church orients the life of the community of faith around gratitude for God's gift of grace made real in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Biblical gratitude is always relational, not material.

This month at SHPC, we have many opportunities for you to engage in that second, Biblical kind of thanksgiving:

- Our **FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN** continues as pledge cards are turned in. Practicing generous sacrificial giving—tithing—is a strong biblical practice that stands in stark contrast to the "idolatry of possessions." In Christian stewardship our gratitude to God matters in real, concrete ways. Pledge cards can still be turned in to the church office or through the offering plate.
- On **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4** we will celebrate **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** in worship, a day in which we gather around the Lord's Table for the eucharistic feast of thanksgiving, and we share prayers of gratitude for the life and love of "all the saints who from their labors rest." We will read aloud the names of those who have died in the church over the past year and give thanks and praise to God for their love. We will also give thanks for God's grace reflected in the sacrament of Baptism and the beautiful music of our children's choirs. It's a Sunday you definitely don't want to miss.
- On **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18** we will highlight many mission and service opportunities through our congregation in which our gratitude for God's grace can come alive. That morning will be our annual Alternative Gift Market (see more details in this newsletter). This is a wonderful way to show love with your family and friends that does not reinforce the materialism of the season.

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Also, that Sunday we will kick off our Angel Tree program to support the children of St. Mary's Home and the elderly through Catholic Social Services. Finally, that day, we will welcome Doug Marshall, the new president of the Alabama Presbyterian Home for Children as our guest preacher. Doug will celebrate with us what the gratitude, service, and generosity of Presbyterians around our state has meant to some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Grace and Peace,

Breakfast Bible Study: Join your friends and church family for our monthly Breakfast Bible Study on **Tuesday, November 13** at 7:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. George Barton and his crew whip up a delicious breakfast, and Buz Wilcoxon continues leading us through a study of the Ten Commandments (with a little help from *The Andy Griffith Show* - naturally).

Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

Religious Arts 'Field Trip'

We were all impressed with the summer presentation on glass art by Matthew Patterson and the wonderful display of his art in the SHPC Library. Now, Matthew, Assistant Professor of The Visual Arts Department of The University of South Alabama, has invited us to a glass blowing demonstration at the Glass Arts Building on campus. The demonstration will be **Saturday, November 3, 2018** at 9:30 am. Immediately following the demonstration anyone wishing to participate in a hands on experience will be given the opportunity to design and make a kiln formed bowl. All bowls will be donated to ART SOUP 2018.

ART SOUP 2018

Art Soup is the annual fund raiser for Loaves and Fish Community Ministry Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation committed to serving the needs of the homeless in Mobile, Alabama since 1979. Proceeds from this event will go directly to the following local organizations that assist the homeless every-day: Penelope House, Ransom Ministries, Family Promise, McKemie Place, and USA Student Run Free Clinic. Art Soup will be on November 16, 2018, 6-9pm at Azalea Manor, 751 Dauphin Street, Mobile AL 36602. Additional Information: <http://www.artsoupmobile.org/>

Spotlight on M.B. Austin Classroom Volunteers!

Volunteers for our partnership with Mary B. Austin Elementary are reporting fun times helping students. Judy Weaver and Buz Wilcoxon were impressed with some advanced readers in one kindergarten class. Janie Sims helped a kindergarten child learning to recognize letters; and Clair Hamlin helped some first-graders take a reading test on the computer. Luann Rice and Sara McGough read to a first-grade and a second-grade class respectively. Ask them about it! Can you give ONE day in November? Sign up on the calendar in the hallway. Our goal = 10 volunteers per month.

Mission Trip to Presbyterian Home

Mission Trip to the Presbyterian Home For Children
-- Fri Dec 7th - Sun Dec 9th

Join us for fun, fellowship and service as we head to Talladega for another inspiring and heartwarming weekend. There are many enjoyable projects that need to be done which include decorating the Home for Christmas. There is no cost for you to make this worthwhile trip as accommodations, meals, and transportation are included. For further information or to reply "Yes, I'm In" please respond to ted.auttonson@gmail.com or call 251-591-4091 (Ted's cell).

Advent Activities Ahead – Save Dates!

ANGEL TREE GIFTS for CHILDREN/YOUTH & SENIORS

This year SHPC is sponsoring children/youth and senior citizens in Mobile who need our love and support during the Christmas season. **We will provide gifts for twenty children who live at St. Mary's Children's Home and twenty seniors who have been identified by Catholic Social Services.**

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one or more of these people by selecting a name card from the Angel Tree bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall, beginning in early November. WATCH FOR IT! The card lists the recipient's name and Christmas wish list. Select one or more items from the gift list you choose and bring them back to the church. **Gifts for senior citizens need to be returned no later than Wednesday, December 5. Gifts for children/youth at St. Mary's need to be returned no later than Sunday, December 16.**

Specific instructions for gift delivery to SHPC will be on the bulletin board.

This is a wonderful opportunity to talk with your family and think about the Christmas story as you select a special gift for someone you don't even know.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Acts 20:35

A CELEBRATION OF CRECHES

Many families have one or more treasured crèches that are displayed in their home each Advent season. In addition to the celebration of the birth of Christ, the crèche may represent the remembrance of a loved one, long held family traditions and stories, a souvenir of family travels or a gift from the hands of a talented friend made especially for your family. During the Advent Festival, Sunday, December 2, you are invited to share your crèche and its story with your church family at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Each crèche will be displayed prominently in locations around the church building, the Fellowship Hall, the Library and others, as needed. Crèches may be set up Saturday, December 1, during choir rehearsal between 9:00 a.m. - noon, or before Sunday School (9:00) Sunday morning. Members of the Religious Arts Committee will be available to assist with setup and will watch over the displays for security on Sunday. They may be viewed by the congregation Sunday morning and during the Advent Festival Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to share your crèche, please sign up by November 17, on the sheets in the back hall, near Anna's office. Please provide the approximate size so display spaces can be allocated to accommodate each item. Give a brief description and history of your crèche and a display placard will be provided for you. Indicate if you are willing to share your crèche for viewing beyond December 2. If you would like to email these descriptions, you can email them to Judy Stout at judypstout@mchsi.com.



**Join us December 2,
3:30-5 pm for an
Advent Festival!**

This intergenerational event is for people of all ages with lots of opportunities. You will be able to:

- Help us decorate the church for the Advent season! Many hands make light work! We will be creating homemade wreaths, putting up trees, learning about chrismsons and more!
- Explore our "Celebration of Creches" and see the stories behind some of our church members treasured nativity scenes.
- Engage in some fun crafts to prepare us for Christmas that explore the Advent words faith, hope, joy, and love (mostly for our children).
- Hear our Church Band play some of our favorite Christmas carols and have some Christmas treats together provided by our fantastic Fellowship committee!

We hope you will join us for this fun and festive celebration as we kick-off the Advent season together. Want to help us in the planning for this fun event? See Anna Fulmer Duke!



Wake Up! This is Your Life!

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I enjoy riding my bike. I wake-up early on Saturday mornings and am geared out with lights, a light-weight triathlon bike, and a group of friends. There's a group who calls themselves "Stop and Smell the Roses"—they take leisurely jaunts. I am not usually a "Stop and Smell the Roses" kind of girl. I want to enjoy my ride, but I want to also get a good work-out. If I am waking up at 5:15 am on a Saturday morning, we better go somewhere!

Recently, though I have taken up a new form of biking. I have started commuting to church on Sunday afternoons for youth group on my bike. I don't ride my fancy triathlon bike. Instead, I ride my sister's abandoned clunker. A heavy brand-less bike that creaks and groans. And instead of riding miles and miles, I ride 3-4 miles. These afternoon jaunts remind me of the joy of traveling slowly, without a rush. They remind me to notice things—sometimes my legs burning, other times the feel of the air as it passes by. They have made me wonder if I am turning into a "stop and smell the roses" kind of person. Riding my clunky bike makes me feel like a kid again—my goal isn't to ride fast or to get in better shape. My goal is to enjoy my ride.

This alternative form of travel is making me aware of how often I am so driven to make it to my destination: the church, my house, the hospital, the gym that I never notice the journey. I tune out my surroundings with the

radio, my thoughts, my multitasking. I can drive for miles and miles and not be able to remember what I saw along the way.

And yet God speaks. God says to me over and over, "Wake up! This is your life! This drive, the in-between times make up your life! Are you just going to let them pass by in anticipation of where you are headed?" In our church's theme of journeying together I am finding that the point isn't where Jesus is going (or I am going); Jesus stops along the way. He notices people. He stays in the moment—he doesn't become so focused on where he is going that he ignores the people and experiences around him.

In this season we can get swept up in what's coming—Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's. It can be overwhelming. It can be numbing. But there's another alternative: may we stop. Pause. Find something that makes us feel alive. An experience that helps us appreciate the present moment, whatever that moment brings. Maybe its riding your bike, working on a puzzle, swinging, taking a swim, sitting outside, calling a friend who makes you laugh, sewing, an ice-cream. Wake-up! This is your life! May you find peace and hope stopping along your journey to smell the roses.

Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke

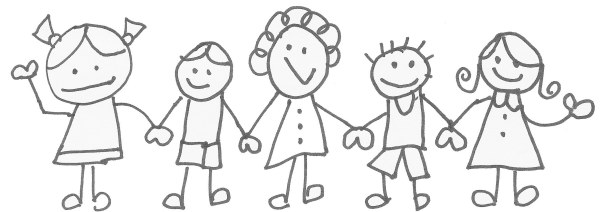
Children's ministry news:

During the month of November, children will hear stories from the books of 1 Kings, Jeremiah, Amos, and Daniel during both Sunday school and children's church.

On November 4th, we will hear the story from 1 Kings about Elijah running from King Ahab, and how the Lord provided for him when Ahab was hungry and afraid.

Our lesson on the 11th of November, comes from the book of Jeremiah. Children will discuss how God called Jeremiah to speak to the people for him.

The story from Amos will be the lesson on November 18. Children will hear the story of the shepherd Amos. They will learn that Amos tried to get the people of Israel to listen to God and share their riches with the poor. We will discuss why it is important to treat everyone fairly.



The last Sunday of November, the lesson will be from the book of Daniel. We will hear how Daniel was thrown into a pit of lions for praying to God, and how God sent an angel to protect Daniel. The children will talk about trusting God at all times.

SAVE THE DATE- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18

Get a head-start on the Christmas season and get in the Christmas spirit with SHPC's annual...

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET

BREAKFAST TOGETHER: Gather with family and friends and share the spirit and foods of the holiday seasons by bringing your favorite holiday breakfast treat to a pot-luck breakfast gathering at 9:00 AM in the Bullard Building.

INSPIRING WORDS: Learn about our AL Presbyterian Home for Children and its on-going vital work by listening to Doug Marshall, President and CEO of the AL Presbyterian Home for Children, who will share news of the Home during this inter-generational Sunday School gathering.

CHRISTMAS "SHOPPING" for the BEST GIFTS EVER: Peruse the materials and consider your alternative gift giving for this year by selecting representative gifts of hope and mission for various local and international agencies and mission projects that have been selected by SHPC's Mission Committee. Gifts may be selected and donations made between November 18 and December 31 by submitting your "order form" and donation check to Nancy Coleman in the church office.

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A GIFT FOR OTHERS.

HEIFER PROJECT: THE MOST IMPORTANT CATALOGUE IN THE WORLD

Don't Forget the Farm Stock Available Starting November 4th



How many of you get Christmas catalogues in the mail?
How many of you get more Christmas catalogues in the mail than you would ever care to receive? This is to introduce you to one which will not come to you – you will have to make an effort to get it; yet, it is the most important gift catalogue in the world.

During the Spanish Civil War in 1936-1939, Dan West worked in the front lines as an aid worker. From this vantage point he saw, first hand, the devastating effects of that conflict in the forms of hunger and lack of clothing. So it was that he founded Heifer International in 1944. His vision, which has now become reality, was that, instead of providing food to the hungry and clothing to those in need of it, a methodology which would give them the requisite animals, education and training necessary to provide food and clothing for them and others would

enable that methodology to produce an unending stream of renewable resources.

God has graced our family with an abundance of material gifts. Because of this, my wife and I have used the Christmas Season to teach the younger generation what is truly necessary and important and how one's priorities should be ordered. In this regard, my wife and I have chosen to take the funds which would otherwise go toward gifts for each individual family member and use those funds to make a donation to Heifer International. Every year on Christmas Eve a card is passed around the dinner table so that everyone, most importantly, the children, can learn specifically what composite gift, given in each of their names, has been given to those most in need. In this way, hopefully, a blessed tradition of giving will be perpetuated.

Betty Crocker Approves but Martha Stewart is skeptical

(or: Easy hosting makes more fun with church family!)

Supper Clubs are coming back! Supper Clubs meet monthly and are a great way to get to know other members in a smaller setting. Fill out the form below to sign-up for a Supper Club and turn it into the church office. You may also register online or on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Main building. The deadline to sign-up is on December 17. We will have a Supper Club Potluck on Sunday, Jan. 27 after church in the Bullard Building. There you will have lunch with your Supper Club and plan for the Fall! Not sure if Supper Clubs are for you? Read about Nancy Adams' experience below to learn more!

"Supper clubs are a great way to get to know new people in the church and become acquainted with some whom you normally only see in church. Through the years, we have come to know and make friends with some great Presbyterians by sharing food and fun. The system is easy because there are no rules. There are normally 10-12 people in each club and meeting dates and places are flexible. When you host, you only provide the main dish and drinks. Others provide the rest. Although most gatherings are in members' homes, there are multiple options such as gathering at church, meeting in a restaurant, attending an event at the Exploreum followed by dinner downtown, spending a Saturday touring the Delta with a picnic lunch, or another fun event determined by the group. Try it! You'll like it!"

—Nancy Adams

2019 Supper Club Sign-Up

Supper Clubs are for anyone who would like to get to know others in our church family in a smaller, relaxed atmosphere. Each person hosts their supper club 1-2 times in a year. Supper Clubs can be hosted in your home, at church, or at a restaurant. If you have questions please contact Jo Barton or Jodi Morvant.

Sign me up for a Supper Club.

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Would you like a group that meets: Day Evening

Any Additional Information:

Supper Club Kick-Off is Jan. 27 after Church in the Bullard Building



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Cantata Sunday 2018

DECEMBER 2

During 10:30 a.m. worship

Music by Mendelssohn, Bach, Rutter, and others
for choir, soloists,
and chamber orchestra of 15 instrumentalists

Dr. Wes Baldwin, Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke,
and Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, readers



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

Alex Lankford
Harriett Pennington
John Morrisette

From the following:

Louis & Moren Braswell
Larry & Nancy Sims
Thomas & Lisa Clement
Charles & Linda Langston
Courtney McGowin
Charles & Rita Hall
Thomas Brinkley
Jim & Nancy Adams
Vickie and Fred Colson
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert F. Dukes, Jr.
Schley and Laura Rutherford
Mary & John Turner
Janie & David Posey
James & Annette Mills
Mollie & Russell Buffkin
Lawrence & Mary Ann Brown
Charles & Pam Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Weaver
Brinkley Pound
Mr. and Mrs. David Posey
Dr. And Mrs. Chris Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James Mills
The Moses Foundation
Cort & Susan Schlichting
Roy & Sue Martino
Michael Smith & Karen Carr
Lucinda Bell
Josiah & Janee Bonner
Teresa Smith
J. Manson & Marietta Murray
Anne Howard
Ronald Snider
Blacksher White-Spinner
Susan Herndon Caples
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Engelmeier
Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Peterson III
Charles & Linda Langston
Vernon & Sallie Hunter
Jim & Nancy Adams
Janie Sims
Katherine and David Shell
Camille Luscher
H.P. and Anne Karangelen
Tim Vines, Officers & Board of Directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama



**We
Rejoice**

We rejoice with Ann Magee in
the birth of a grandson, Edward
Bailey Munderloh, on September
24 in Nashville TN. Parents are
Alex and Emma Munderloh.



**We Share
in Sorrow.**

The Prayers and sympathy of the
congregation are with Sue McNeely
on the death of her sister Shirley
Willmon-Hayes in Tuscaloosa
Alabama on October 13 and with
Sally Cobb on the death of her
sister Martha Griffith in Demopolis
AL on October 22, 2018.

**Church Calendar
November 2018**

3	Back Pack for Kids - 9 a.m.
4	All Saints Sunday Communion
5	Stewardship - 12:00
6	Committees
7	Congregational care - 11:00 PWCT - 9:30
8	75th Anniversary Meeting - 5:30
12	Veterans Day- Office Closed
13	Session and Diaconate Bible Breakfast - 7 a.m.
14	Circle One - 10:00 a.m. Circle Two - 6:00 p.m.
17	Yeoman Workday
18	Alternative Gift Market
19	Newsletter Deadline - 9:00 a.m.
21	Office closes at 12 p.m.m -Thanksgiving Holidays
22-23	Office Closed



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

November 15, 7:00 pm @ St Ignatius

Offering supports the Wheel a Meal program

November 2018