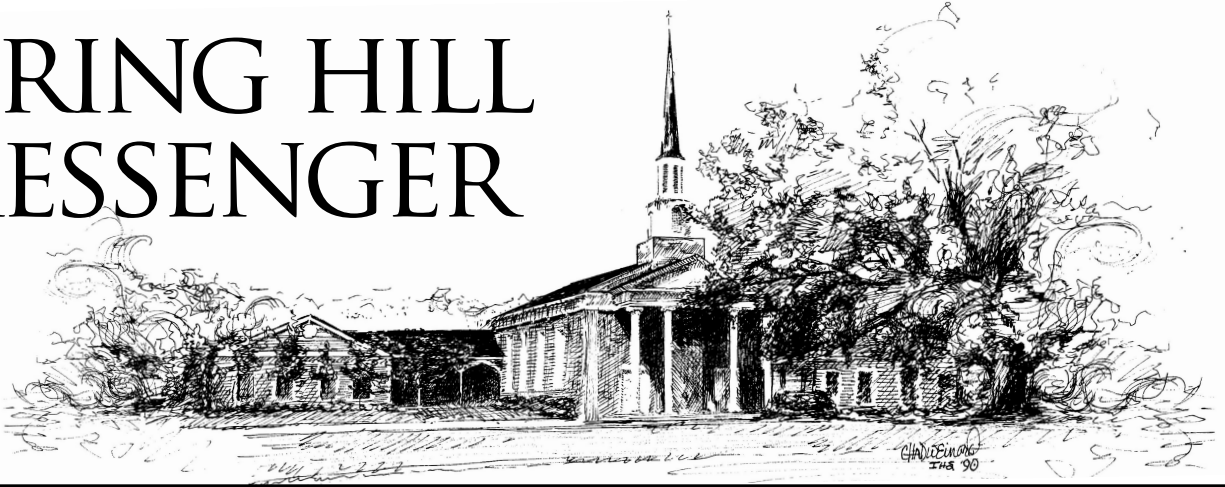


# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

November, 2019

“LET US COME INTO GOD’S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING.”  
– PSALM 95:2

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

As the month of November arrives, we are surrounded by a particular vocabulary. Our decorations, our conversations, our shopping lists, our travel plans, our TV commercials, our children’s and grandchildren’s artwork are all infused with the words “Thanksgiving” or “Give Thanks.” The national celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday is, of course, the driving force behind this flash flood of gratitude language, but as Christians we know that thanksgiving is not bound to a particular day or even season. No, as children of the living, creating, redeeming God we are invited to live lives of gratitude all our days. The psalmist calls us to “come into God’s presence with thanksgiving,” and the apostle Paul invites us to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

During worship on Sunday, November 3 we will join Christians around the world in celebration of All Saints Sunday, a day full of thanksgiving. We will give thanks for “all the saints who from their labors rest.” That is to say, our prayers and devotion to God will be marked with gratitude for those who have gone before us, who have lived and died in the faith, who are not with us in body but whose memories still inspire thanksgiving in our hearts.

After worship that same Sunday we invite you to join in an All Saints Potluck Lunch in the Bullard Building. This time of fellowship is part of our year-long 75th Anniversary celebration. The church will provide the main

dish and desert, and we invite you to bring your favorite holiday side-dish to share. At this feast you will also hear about our 2019 Alternative Gift Market, in which we invite our church family to make financial contributions to local and international charitable organizations (in lieu of tangible Christmas presents). Copies of this year’s order form are included in this newsletter. The abundance of food on our the table reminds us of all we have to be grateful for and of our responsibility to let our gratitude move us to serve those who do not experience such abundance because of the broken powers of this world.

On Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 PM we will gather for our annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service in partnership with other churches in the Spring Hill community. This year we have also invited Rabbi Steve Silberman and the members of Ahavas Chesed Synagogue to join us in this special service. As is the tradition for this service, there will be a combined choir with representatives from different congregations, an offering will be taken up to support the Wheel-A-Meal program, and a reception will follow afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

Then, on Sunday, November 24 there will be a very special Intergenerational Thanksgiving Sunday School event at 9:00 AM connecting the themes of Thanksgiving and Advent. You can read more details about it inside this newsletter.

Continued on page 2 ...

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At one of these ecumenical worship services in a previous year we heard Father Greg Lucey from Spring Hill College give the sermon, and in his remarks, he spoke about the role that thanksgiving plays in our Christian spirituality. I remember him saying, "For most of my days I have tried to live a holy life, though I'm not sure how well I've succeeded at doing so. But when I look back and remember the people who I consider to be holy, there is one common theme in all their lives. The holiest people that I know are also the most grateful people that I know." Friends, we do indeed have much to be grateful for, but not just in this season, and certainly not just on

one day a year. May each day, each moment, each breath be marked with a deep sense of gratitude for all God's gifts in our lives, most especially for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for each and every one of us.

Grace and Peace,



"Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our creator triumphantly raise..."

## Children's ministry news

For the month of November, our Children's Church and Children's Sunday School classes will be using lessons from the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum that we have used in the past. These lessons will begin our journey to Advent.

Throughout November, we will begin activities and preparation for Advent. We want our children to know the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, from the prophecy of a Savior to the visit from the Magi. We will begin November with a lesson on God's Peaceable Kingdom. Children will hear the story of the prophet Isaiah's message of a world filled with love and peace. The class will discuss that Jesus brings peace, now and forever.

On November 10, our classes will hear the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah. They were told they were having a baby after many years of praying for a child.

The lesson on November 17 will be from the book of Luke. Children will discuss how Mary might have felt when the angel Gabriel told her she would give birth to the Son of God.

On November 24, we will attend a Sunday School event for the entire church. in the Fellowship Hall.

## YOUTH MINISTRY:

**Montreat Trip Deadline:** Just a reminder that the deadline to register for the Montreat Middle (July 15-19, 2020) and High School (June 6-13, 2020) Conferences is Dec. 1. Cost is \$290. A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by Dec. 1.

**Youth Retreat at Baytreat January 5-6:** Join us for a collaborative retreat with Government Street Presbyterian Youth. We will gather Saturday, January 4 at 10:00 am and return on January 5. Please RSVP by December 8, so we know how many people to expect! Questions? Contact Anna at [anna@shpc.us](mailto:anna@shpc.us)



We Rejoice!

WE REJOICE with Eric and Heather Fayard in the birth of a daughter, Heidi Wynn, on October 10.

## Looking Ahead!



VBS 2020, Save the Dates! This year, we are having Vacation Bible School June 1-4, 2020. Please note the time change from the past few years and make an effort to be there to help!

# Mirror to the Church

Dear Friends,

Last week, I participated in my final Doctorate of Ministry elective course on Lived Theology. It is both exciting and daunting to be at this stage (because now I just have a pesky rather large final project to finish and write about). Over the course of the week, we looked at four places and times in our world where people lived their theology out or they did not and the implications. These four moments in history were the Civil Rights Movement, Bonhoeffer and World War II, genocide in Rwanda, and our current moment in history in the United States. One of our members wisely asked, "Well who gets to decide who lives out their theology? What if your actions are misinterpreted?" It's an important and tough question. Ultimately in our class, we decided that lived theology is defined as "the social consequences of religious belief." What happens when other descriptors, (our nationality, race, socioeconomic status) hold more power than being a Christian?

One of the books that particularly gripped me was *Mirror to the Church*, by Emmanuel Katongole on the Rwandan genocide. Rwanda is a majority Christian nation. What struck me first and foremost in the genocide in Rwanda was how the genocide began during Easter week and how most of the people killing and being killed were Christians. These people knew each other, worshiped together, and were neighbors. Before the genocide, "rather than questioning, resisting and interrupting the formation of identity through racial, economic, and national categories," the Christian church instilled these identities.<sup>1</sup> Hutus and Tutsis originally were not racial categories but divisions of labor. However, once colonizers came into Rwanda, they saw these divisions and made all chiefs Tutsis. "The church did not write the script but took it for granted."<sup>2</sup> They assumed this was

the way the system worked and the way power was distributed in the country without understanding the history of Rwanda. "The church played a central role in the development of a society where the Tutsi minority rule a Hutu majority."<sup>3</sup>(63).



During the genocide, there were some Christians who kept neighbors safe and risked their lives; yet there were even some priests who contributed to the violence. There was disconnect for Christians about the killing they were doing. One night Tutsis and Hutus were gathered together singing in choir; the next week, Tutsis were missing from the choir because they had been killed by fellow choir members. Across the world, "Western missionaries and church agencies, with only one or two exceptions, quickly abandoned Rwanda and left its people to sort out their problems."<sup>4</sup> For Emmanuel Katongole, "maybe the deepest tragedy of

the Rwandan genocide is that Christianity didn't seem to make any difference."<sup>5</sup>

Indeed, before and during the genocide, the church failed in many ways to create an alternative identity for Rwandans that was more powerful than the labels Hutu and Tutsi. *Mirror to the Church* says that this atrocity should be a mirror to the Western Church to examine our own hidden assumptions not just a lesson to Rwanda. In Rwanda there was a "tragic failure of the church to offer a baptism that [runs] deeper than tribalism."<sup>6</sup> My prayer is that our baptism runs deeper than the divisions that our world sets out to create. I look forward to share more about this class and the powerful things we read, watched, and discussed. As my final project for this class, I am creating a four-session Sunday school series that I would love to actually teach if people are interested!

Thank you for praying for me as I continue my studies. I am grateful to be able to share what I am learning.

Peace,

<sup>1</sup> Emmanuel Katongole, *Mirror to the Church: Resurrecting Faith after Genocide in Rwanda* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), 53.

<sup>2</sup> Katongole, 61.; <sup>3</sup> Katongole, 63.; <sup>4</sup> Katongole, 42.; <sup>5</sup> Katongole, 84.; <sup>6</sup> Katongole, 169.

## Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

### Box tops for Education goes digital!! Get Scanning for Mary B!!!

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them in. Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change to the new looking Box Tops label seen below. Download the new **Box Tops app** from the app store on your phone, and if you see the new label, use the app to scan your receipt within 14 days. The app will automatically find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to the school's earnings online.

PREVIOUS STYLE



DIGITAL STYLE



### Art in the Library in November- Our Church en plein air!

In honor of our **75th Anniversary**, some of our local plein air (outdoor)



painters have been taking an artist's look at our church campus. Some paintings show views we sometimes pass without thought, some show favorite details. Be sure to have a look for yourself. All work is available for sale. Contact Melissa Root for details. It's up through November.

### Sleigh Riders Bring Joy !!

**Mission Trip to the Presbyterian Home For Children -- Thurs Dec 5th - Fri Dec 6th**

Join us for fun, fellowship and service as we head to Talladega for another inspiring and heartwarming visit. There are many enjoyable projects that need to be done which include decorating various areas of the Home campus for Christmas. There is no cost to you to make this worthwhile trip as accommodations, meals, and transportation are included. For further information or to reply "**Yes, I'm In**" or "**Ho! Ho! Ho!**" contact Ted Autterson know so he can figure out how to fit everyone in the sleigh!! [ted.autterson@gmail.com](mailto:ted.autterson@gmail.com) or call/text Ted Autterson at 251-510-5184 (ted's cell).

### Angel Tree Gifts

**For Children/Youth & Senior Adults**



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 and twenty senior adults 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 need to be returned no later than Sunday morning, December 8. 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.

### This POT LUCK is LUCKY indeed!!

**POTLUCK LUNCH:** There will be a Potluck lunch Sunday, November 3 after Worship in the Bullard Building. Please bring your favorite thanksgiving side dish to share. The church will provide ham, a chicken dressing casserole and dessert. There will be a signup sheet in the hallway. **Please join us for our 75th Anniversary Thanksaivina feast!**



# Current Issues Sunday School Continues Through December

November 3 Elliott Morris, topic: **AARP's Home Fit Program**  
Alternative Gift Market (after church service)

November 10 Kim Garrett, Victory Health Partners.  
Topic: **Bridging the Gap: Compassionate and Comprehensive Healthcare for Uninsured Adults**

5 week video/book series Begins:  
**"Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times" by Adam Hamilton\***



November 17 Understanding and Countering Your Fears (introduced by Dale Hair)

November 24 **Intergenerational class** (introduced by Anna Fulmer Duke, in Fellowship Hall)

December 1 Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics (introduced by Rick Stout)

December 8 Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness (introduced by Bill Layfield)

December 15 Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances (introduced by Sue Martino)

December 22 Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord (introduced by Lawrence Hughey)

**\*About the Series Author:** Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. **The Church Report** named Hamilton's congregation the most influential mainline church in America, and he preached at the National Prayer Service as part of the presidential inauguration festivities in 2013.

Hamilton is the best-selling and award-winning author of **Creed, Half Truths, The Call, The Journey, The Way, 24 Hours That Changed the World, John, Revival, Not a Silent Night, Enough, When Christians Get It Wrong, and Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White**, all published by Abingdon Press.

## Thanksgiving and Advent at SHPC: Intergenerational Thanksgiving Sunday School, Sunday, November 24 at 9:00 am

Please join us as we together give thanks for all God has given us! Children and adults alike are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall as we learn together. You will also have time to compile your Advent Take-Home Kit. Light refreshments will be provided.



## ADVENTFEST!!

**Saturday Dec. 14 from 9-11 am.** This year we are moving our Adventfest to Saturday morning from 9-11 am. Join us as we let the children make fun crafts, hear the Christmas story, and decorate our Sanctuary for worship. Many hands make light work, so please plan to help! Also, if you can bring fresh greenery from your house or a tree stand, please do! We will have some brunch goodies as well to fuel our fun!

## Backpack Food for Kids

Backpack Food for Kids Ministry is a local partnership between Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Phillips Prep and Austin Elementary. Our goal is to provide nutritious, easy-to-prepare weekend food for selected students. Teachers and school staff identify students whose behaviors suggest they suffer from chronic hunger. On Friday, these students discretely receive a bag of food to tuck into their backpacks for the weekend. There are several ways you can help to make this program a success. Suggested food items are on a list in the hallway and the food can be dropped off anytime in the barrel in the Bride's room. To make a donation, make your check out to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with a note that the check is for the Backpack Ministry. The schools and students are very grateful for the assistance we provide with this ministry.



## TAI CHI AT SHPC CONTINUES

Mondays, 10:30-11:15, through Dec. 2. After the Oct. 28 session, Alla Zakharova will guide the remaining tai chi classes in 2019. In 2020, classes will resume under the leadership of Randy Sheets. (There will be no class on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11.)

## CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING TO OTHERS

WISE MEN DID IT, WE CAN TOO!



**...and you can do that through SHPC's ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET. Shop for some of the **BEST GIFTS EVER** for those in need in our local community and in the world beyond by giving gifts in honor of your family and friends.**

**Our ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET FORM Makes it easy!** Our form features representative gifts of hope, benefitting local and international agencies selected by SHPC's Mission Committee. Forms will be available in newsletters, bulletins, and in the church hallways and office. Gifts may be selected and donations made between November 3 and December 31 by submitting your "order form" and donation check to Susan Richardson in the church office.

### **Agencies represented in our 2019 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET**

- **Victory Health Partners**
- **Wings of Life**
- **Penelope House**
- **St. Mary's Home**
- **McKemie Place**
- **Home of Grace**
- **Family Promise**
- **Heifer International**
- **The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA)**

**HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH  
A GIFT FOR OTHERS.**



# *A Celebration of Crèches*

Many families have one or more treasured crèche that is 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. Our 2018 inaugural Celebration of Crèches was a moving experience, representing the Christmas story in many media and from Christian cultures around the world.

During the Advent Season, 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 setup Saturday, December 7, 9:00-noon. Members of the Religious Arts Committee will be available to assist with setup and will watch over the displays for security.

Crèches may all be viewed by the congregation Sunday morning, December 8. If you would like to share your crèche, please **sign up by November 24**, on the sheets in the back hall. 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 8. Crèches remaining will be displayed in the Library **through Sunday, December 22** and should be removed after church that day.

## Memorials have been received for the following:

Anne Layfield  
Peter Pearce  
Sally & John Morrisette  
Merle Weldon  
William Owen  
Gina Johnson  
Lexie Barnett  
Mary Byrd  
John Hafner



## From the following:

Ralph & Wanda Lawrence  
Nicholas Vrakelos  
Ann Bedsole  
Baldwin County Road Builders Assn  
Mobile County Road Builders Assn  
Lawrence Hughey  
Hal & Lynn Daugherty  
Royce & Pat Ray  
Lanier Cauley  
Joan Crawford  
PW Day Circle  
Louis & Moren Braswell  
Rose & Hallet McDonough  
Bonney Irwin  
Jane Sims  
Alan & Marilyn Michel  
Mary Ruth Welborn  
Ruth Fitzgerald  
Camille Luscher  
Paul Graham McClintock

CHUCH CALENDAR: November	
3	All Saints Sunday Communion Potluck Lunch Alternative Gift Market
5	Committees
6	PW Coordinating Team -10:00 am Congregational Care -11:00 am Word in the Week - Noon
7	Writing and Spirituality - 2:30 pm
11	Church Office closed for Veteran's Day
12	Newsletter Deadline Breakfast Bible Study - 8:00 am
13	Day Circle - 10:00 am; Night Circle - 6:00 pm Word in the Week - Noon
16	Yeoman Workday
18	Committee Chair Orientation
19	Session - 6:00 pm Diaconate - 7:00 pm
20	Word in the Week - Noon
21	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at SHPC 7:00 pm followed by Reception
27	Church office Closes at noon
29	Church Closed for Thanksgiving





Spring Hill Presbyterian Church  
10 Westminster Way  
Mobile, AL 36608

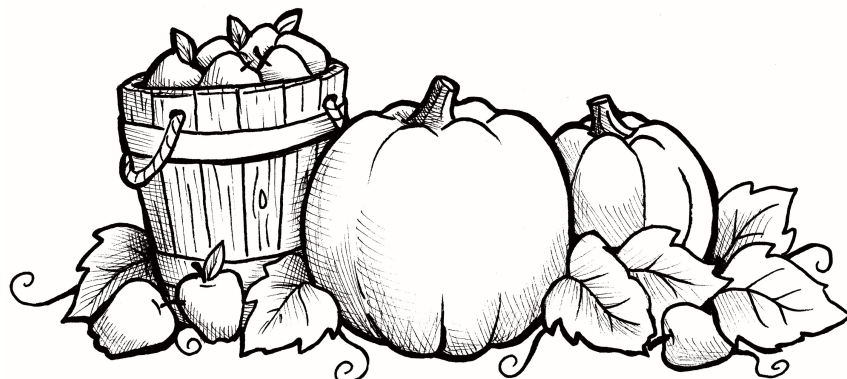
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*November*