



# SPRING HILL MESSENGER

November 2020

## Grounded in Gratitude

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

It's hard for me to wrap my mind around the fact that it is already November. At times this tumultuous year has seemed to stand still and stagger in place, but the recent weeks (as church and school activities have ramped up) have moved at a more rapid pace in our household. Now that it is November it's a bit cliché to start talking about thanksgiving...but why let a cliché get in the way. The truth is thankfulness and gratitude are not bound to any one month or season. Even in the midst of a pandemic, a politically divisive election year, repeated threats from hurricanes, and so much more that has made this time seem so difficult – yes, even after 10 months of 2020 we still have much to be thankful for. New life has begun with babies born. Transitions like graduations, marriages, moves, new jobs, and retirements still continued (albeit in very different ways). Love has been shown, compassion has been shared, grace has been showered, and joy has surfaced. The light still shines, even in the darkness.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that we turn a blind eye to the pain and suffering of the past year. Mourning and lament are not practices that can be shortchanged. However, when we seek to prayerfully ground our hearts and minds in gratitude, we see the good amidst the bad. We acknowledge the darkness without letting it fully eclipse the light.

During this month, the ministries of the church will provide ample opportunities to enter into a spiritual space of thanksgiving to God and to respond with acts of grateful service. Here's a few to keep on your radar:

- Our annual **Stewardship** emphasis is well underway. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge, please prayerfully consider how your gratitude to God might be reflected in your giving.
- The **Alternative Gift Market and Angel Tree** programs are both launching right now (with some COVID tweaks for safety). Read more in this newsletter about how to participate.
- Our rich worship life continues with hybrid Sunday services allowing both in-person and online participation. We also have two more outdoor **Sunday Vespers** services at 4:00 PM. At the vespers service on November 8 we will baptize Anders Duke (the newest member of our church family), and on November 22 we will welcome our neighbors for an ecumenical service of thanksgiving.
- Finally, at the end of the month on November 29 we will begin the season of **Advent** as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world. The light shines in the darkness.

Friends, I am so thankful for your love and commitment to this church family shown through this year unlike any that we have seen before. I hope you will join with your church family in all of these opportunities to show and share our gratitude to God for the many gifts we have received.

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

Grace and Peace,

Buz

## *A Word from Pastor Anna*

Dear SHPC Family,

You are probably already thinking about how your holidays will be different. Maybe you are planning your celebrations outside. Maybe you are not able to see loved ones who live far away. Maybe what was once a huge celebration has to be paired down. Each year, the holidays are filled with both joy and grief, but this year the grief seems compounded. There is a yearning for things to return to “normal.”

As people of faith, we are ritual people. There are the big rituals of our faith like the saying Lord’s Prayer, Communion, Baptism, Memorial Services, and prayers. There are also small rituals, ordinary acts that take on meaning that often go unnoticed. As Presbyterians who do things “decently and in order,” the order of worship, music, a beadle and crucifer, a bulletin are rituals. These ordinary acts bring a sense of peace and order. We like for things to feel normal; we like rituals. Rituals hold our joy and pain in holy containers. Our rituals help us connect to God in ways we cannot describe. Often, rituals are something we take for granted. But if 2020 has taught me anything is that we may not notice when rituals are there, but we certainly notice when rituals are gone or changed. In the past few weeks, we have been able to return to some old rituals; some people are now able to worship back in the Sanctuary. Yet, there may still be a feeling of loss and longing for normal. It’s hard not being able to have the ritual of the music being sung by our choir, not being able to speak the Lord’s Prayer in unison, not being able to sit close together. It is okay for us to honor and share our grief.

The holidays have their own patterns and rituals. At SHPC some of those beloved rituals during the holidays are the Community Thanksgiving Service, Cantata Sunday, the Advent wreath, decorating the sanctuary with fresh greenery and wreaths, Lessons and Carols, and a candlelit Christmas Eve singing “Silent Night.” We know for us this holiday season may feel different. Things are different. There is pain and loss in the new and different. Yet, I wonder, what are the rituals that we can hold onto even while other things may be different? What are new rituals that we can enact to bring meaning and hope, love and light to this season?

For me, I have hope and am excited about some old rituals transformed like Christmas games and crafts Dec. 6 at BLAST and Youth Small Groups. I am excited about an Outdoor Christmas Pageant possibility! A new ritual I am holding onto is telling the stories and singing the songs of our faith to Anders. While he cannot hear those songs booming from the choir loft—and oh how I grieve that, I can still sing to him the songs and tell him the stories of our faith while bathing him, playing, cooking dinner, and before bedtime. What rituals do you miss the most? What rituals do you turn to for strength and hope in these days? Share them with me if you have a moment by emailing or calling me!

Grace and Peace,

Anna Fulmer Duke

## **2020 Ministry Events**

**BLAST: Bible Learning and Sharing Time** for Children ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade (younger siblings are welcome too!) Nov. 1, Nov. 15, and a special Christmas BLAST Dec. 6 from 4:00-5:00 pm

**Youth Small Groups**: Youth Small Groups are for youth grades 6-12. We hope that you will join us Nov. 1, Nov. 15, and Dec 6 from 4:00-5:00 pm. Sunday, Dec. 6 will be a special Christmas Fellowship event for our youth filled with fun Christmas games and cheer!

**Sunday, November 8 at 9:00 am: Planning Meeting for Young Adult 20s-40s Class** We hope everyone who was able to attend our Pandemic Parenting fall class enjoyed it! We want to plan more for people in their 20s-40s, but we want to hear from you! We want you to be a part of our planning for 2021. We hope you will join us November 8 at 9:00 am via Zoom as we talk about the possibilities for 2021. Look out for a link on the E-News!

## Memorials

Andy Harper   Ashley Brown   Dick Coats   Clifton Martin  
 Pat Ray   Kim Robson   Robert Edington

James & Nancy Adams  
 Dick & Norma Baymiller  
 Jean and Norma Black  
 Stacy, Alan, Taylor & Chandler Bray  
 Ken and Elizabeth Brown  
 Lawrence and Mary Ann Brown  
 Lonnie and Shannon Brown  
 Kay & Carter Bryars  
 Ernest and Jane Bulwinkle  
 Sallie Connell  
 Frank & Cathi Dagley  
 Hal & Lynn Daughtry  
 Barbara Drey  
 Kitty, John, Catherine, & Virginia  
 Dukes

Barbara Eleazer  
 Hilda Gewin  
 Mack & Betty Graham  
 Thomas & Kay Hays  
 Lynn & Jerry Hennig  
 Sandra & Ashley Hudson  
 Bonney Irwin  
 Sue Jardine  
 Joel Bullard Jr  
 Gordon & Kay Korb  
 Jain Ann Lane  
 Ralph & Wanda Lawrence  
 Dalen Livingston  
 Jean Q Mary  
 Norman McCrummen  
 Bobby & Sue McNeely

Ronnie & Peggy Melton  
 Clayton Pennington  
 Dick and Lila Pennington  
 Kimberly Peterson  
 Charlie & Amy Powell  
 Jerrie & Bill Quina  
 Charles & Valda Ratcliffe  
 Royce Ray  
 Cort and Susan Schlichting  
 Jane Sims  
 Valerie Stewart  
 Dan & Nickelle Stoll  
 Sam Strada  
 Bruce & Sylvia Weinard  
 Lisa Weldon

<b>Statement as of September 30, 2020</b>	
Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 860,365
Year-to-date Received	\$ 602,553
Other Receipts	\$ 25,175
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 627,728</b>
Benevolences	\$ 38,759
Salaries and Services	\$ 350,175
Programs	\$ 7,591
Office Expenses	\$ 16,481
General and Plant Services	\$ 137,751
Other	\$ 27,640
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 578,398</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over Expenses (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 49,330</b>

## Prayer List

Kaye Bradshaw, Edith Cox, Bobby Gewin, Robert Hennig, Lauren Henson, Kay Korb, Norma Magee, Ernestine McElroy, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Nicholas Vrakelos, all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Stuart Rubio;  
**the children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program:** Krystyn, Maylasia, Makenzie, Milaishia, Morgan, Taliah & Xayvion.

**Sympathy and Prayers** of the congregation go to Mike Chambers on the death of his wife, Dorothy (Dot) on October 20, 2020.

# CHRISTMAS IS A TIME for GIVING TO OTHERS

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...and you can do that by “shopping” SHPC’s **ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET (AGM)** form for some of the **BEST GIFTS EVER** in honor of your family and friends.

Our **AGM** order form features representative gifts of hope, benefitting our local community and the world beyond. Forms will be available in November and December on the church website, in newsletters, e-news, bulletins, and in the church office. Gift selections and donations may be made any time prior to December 31 by submitting your gift order form and attached donation check in the offering plate or sending them to Susan Richardson in the church office. Gift cards for you to send to honored friends and family may also be obtained in the church office.

## Agencies selected for our 2020 **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET**

**Victory Health Partners**

**Home of Grace**

**Family Promise**

**Wings of Life**

**Heifer International**

**Penelope House**

**The Presbyterian Mission**

**McKemie Place**

**Agency (PCUSA)**



## PLEASE HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A GIFT FOR OTHERS

**John 1:16 - “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”**



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### *Let us Rejoice and Sing!*

Children’s Choirs

Cherub and Elementary Choirs will meet in person! We are thrilled to be singing again outside while masked and 6ft apart. Rehearsal will be outside the Edington Building. Don’t forget to bring your music folder, drum and wear your mask!

Sunday, Nov. 8 and 22 – 4:00 p.m. – Drop off at Vesper service in front of the sanctuary. Children will be escorted together to the area in front of the Edington Building for rehearsal. Pick up will be at 5:00 in front of Edington.



Don’t forget to schedule your Pastries with a Pastor visit with Anna this fall by emailing or texting 803-517-7444.



**It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**

## **ANGEL TREE GIFTS**

### **for CHILDREN/YOUTH & SENIOR ADULTS**

SHPC is again 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 an angel name card from the Angel Tree in the sanctuary narthex, beginning in early November. WATCH FOR IT!** The card lists the recipient's name and Christmas wish list. Select one or more items (\$35-40 range) from the gift list you choose and bring them back to the church. **Gifts need to be delivered to the church no later than Wednesday morning, December 9.** Specific instructions for registering your selected recipient and for gift delivery to SHPC will be at the Angel Tree display.

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

### **Save the Date**

#### **Outdoor Christmas Pageant**

**(Pandemic Style), Dec. 13 at 4:00 pm:**  
We hope the entire church will join us for a fun filled outdoor Christmas Pageant! Bring a chair and wear a mask as we hear the Christmas story in word and music. Different families will play different roles in our socially distanced play. For example, one family will be shepherds, another animals, etc. We are looking for families to fill our roles including angels, animals, shepherds, the Holy Family, and Wise People. Let Anna know if you are interested!

#### **Searching for a Coordinator for Nursery and Children's Ministry**

Lynn Hennig our beloved Coordinator for Nursery and Children's Ministry is retiring this year! We are so grateful for Lynn's five years of dedicated service to the children of our church. We are also searching for someone to fill her large shoes! If you know someone who loves working with children, is interested in a flexible 15 hour a week part-time position overseeing our nursery and supporting our children's ministry please have them reach out to Anna Fulmer Duke at [anna@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:anna@springhillpresbyterian.org) or 251-342-1550 for more information.

## November Current Issues

- Nov 1 **Sheltering in Grace; Serving in Place**, with guest speaker Rev. Eugenia Gamble, a retired PC (USA) pastor who has served the church for over thirty years. She is the author of the 2019-2020 PW Horizons Bible Study "Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments."
- Nov 8 View and discuss: *Tell Me More*-Bryan Stevenson (Author of *Just Mercy*)
- Nov 15 View and discuss: *Tell Me More*-Bryan Stevenson (Author of *Just Mercy*)
- Nov. 22 Introduction and Origin Stories
- Nov. 29 Resistance Stories

## Advent Book Study: *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans

- Nov 22 Introduction and Origin Stories, Dale Hair
- Nov 29 Resistance Stories, Molly Wagner
- Dec 6 Deliverance Stories, Billy McLean
- Dec 13 War Stories and Wisdom Stories, Sue Martino
- Dec 20 Churchwide Sunday School Class via Zoom, TBD
- Dec 27 No Class

## Bible Discovery Class

Weekly focus on a deeper understanding of worship.

- Nov. 8 Worship in the Synagogue
- Nov. 15 Worship as the Church
- Nov. 22 Worship at the Throne
- Nov. 29 Created, Loved, Known



Margaret and Harvie Jordan are happy to announce the recent marriage of Reverend Sarah Jordan and Reverend R.J. Robles. They were joined in holy matrimony by their good friend Reverend Shawna Bowman of Friendship Presbyterian Church in a small, private ceremony in Chicago in early October. "Covid may stop big wedding plans but it sure can't stop love."

Time Change  
Fall Back November 1

