



*SPRING HILL
MESSENGER
November 2023*

Transitions

In July of this year the Personnel Committee of the session offered me an extension to my interim pastor contract. The original contract was for twelve months and began in July 2022. The contract extension takes me to December 31, 2023. After agreeing to the extension, I decided that I would not extend past December 31. I retired as the pastor of a church at the end of May 2015 and began my first interim in August 2015. It was out of town. I have been doing interims for eight years and now I'm ready to stay home. I have truly loved sharing in ministry with you at Spring Hill. My decision is based on my need to stay home.

Recently, I told a few people in Birmingham that I would be moving home on the first of the year. As a result of those conversations, I received two job offers in Birmingham, one of which I have accepted. Beginning in February, after taking January off, I will become the chaplain for Kirkwood by the River, a multi-level care facility built by Independent Presbyterian Church in 1980. I am very familiar with Kirkwood. As one of the clergy on staff at IPC for ten years, I regularly visited church members who were residents there, as well as preached in their chapel services. My mother lived at Kirkwood for twelve years. My brother and I have both served on the board of directors for Kirkwood. And it is only five minutes from my home.

Another important transition for this church is a change for Sallie Connell. Many of you will remember that we recently celebrated Sallie's thirty-five years of service to this church. Several years before that Sallie shifted from full time to part time. She will make another shift on December 1. She will work two five-hour shifts per week. Her responsibilities will be limited to providing support for the clerk of session and remaining as the primary staff liaison with our Outreach Sub-Committee. Marcia Wear, Administrative Secretary, will assume Sallie's other responsibilities. [See the announcement on page two by Knox Boteler, Chair of the Personnel Committee.]

The third transition is pastoral leadership. The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to search for your new pastor. They have excellent candidates and are proceeding with the interview process. Please be patient with this process, which often seems too slow. Pray for the PNC as well as the person God already knows will be your new pastor.

Peace.
Cary



Dear SHPC Family,

On **Thursday, November 16**, I am preaching the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Ignatius, so I have been thinking a lot about Thanksgiving (I hope you will come to the service). This worship service supports our Wheel-A-Meal ministry which provides daily meals for people in our community and is done in coordination with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Springhill Baptist, and us.

Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude, especially to God. When we break down the word, thanks + giving, I see so much in the pattern of our Christians lives. Thanks often leads to giving; and giving leads to thanks. Gratitude and giving are so intertwined, especially in our faith.

Ann was a busy mom with a hectic schedule, barely with enough time in each day. She was stressed, overwhelmed, and spiritually burnt out. She wondered, "How do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties?" "What does gratitude look like when your days are gritty, long, and sometimes dark." In the midst of the overwhelmingness of life, Ann began to write down the everyday blessings she saw. Her lists started with general things—family, friends, a safe place to live, but as she continued her practice, she began to move beyond generalities to the particularity of her day. She began to see the little blessings happening around her within her day. This practice helped Ann to be more present in her life—to notice the things happening right here, right now. Slowly, the patterns of scarcity, future-thinking, anxiety, began to lessen. She could see what God was doing right in front of her. Gratitude helps us slow down; it helps us savor the moments of our day. It sounds crazy or too easy in some ways, but gratitude opens us up to the good in the world—to God's abundance. When we see those gifts, we can give those gifts.


On the news, we see violence erupting in Israel and Gaza and our hearts ache. There is so much pain in this world. We must stay awake to all the beauty too. The light shines in the darkness, and yet to see it, we must look for it.

This November, I challenge you to make a list of what you are grateful for; try to move beyond the generalities, to the particularities of your day. In a world that is hurting, full of violence, heartache, and loss, we need to see where and how God is at work in our everyday lives—we do this through gratitude. There will be a bulletin board up in the hallway. Share something you are grateful for on the bulletin board (I challenge you to put something up that is unique and particular to you). Feel free to add a picture to the board for a visual. Let us see together what God is up to.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

PS: If you want to read more about Ann's story, she has a book, "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp.



After 35 years of service as Administrative Secretary, Sallie Connell will be taking on a new title with the church, effective December 1, 2023. As the Congregational Care Coordinator, Sallie will be taking care of our church members in need and their families. In addition to Congregational Care, Sallie's responsibilities will be limited to serving as Liaison to the Presbytery, and Aide to the Clerk of Session. She will now be working on Mondays and Wednesdays.

We are all so grateful and fortunate for Sallie's many years of service at the church. Her gift of friendship to all our members is a blessing.

From the Personnel Committee

The SHPC Creation Care Team invites you to go to the link below to learn how the PCUSA has joined 29 other denominations and faith organizations to launch an exciting new initiative, One Home One Future, a multi-faith campaign to support efforts to combat climate change.



https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2023/10/02/one-home-one-future/?_hsmi=276561053&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8b306glmro1JWNIyjGojR_I5TzjZiTMBMH5qvE2Fq2xRFRz9SefG2BZ6y3V_DwAalYYdX5rG-DHBSEGmjaA2Q_z4Hb8

The SHPC Creation Care Team is also looking for a few new people from our congregation to join our team to assist with supporting our church in its recently awarded status as an official Earth Care Congregation. Youth representatives are welcomed join us, too.



Memorials

Paul Macon

Received from

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Cradock

The Lynch Family

Walter Kirkland

Greg & Jamie Saad

Alan & Tyler Jackson

Statement as of September 30, 2023

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$	765,766
Year-to-date Received	\$	548,552
Other Receipts	\$	36,292
Total Receipts	\$	584,844
Benevolences	\$	39,911
Salaries and Services	\$	352,803
Programs	\$	26,989
Office Expenses	\$	20,253
General and Plant Services	\$	216,744
Other	\$	18,803
Total Expenses	\$	675,503
Excess Receipts over (under) Expenses	\$	(90,659)

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Janet Clarke, Donna Masso Cook, Jamie Crawford, Sherry Coats, Sallie Connell, *Edith* Cox, Rhen Druhan, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks Sheryne Massa Glicksman, Dean Graves, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Bill Harris, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, Bill Layfield, Steve Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Lynn Martin, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Robert Modica, Mary Owen, Janie Sims, Margie Spaulding, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.

Youth Ministry

Look below to see what else is happening this month! And don't forget to sign-up for our Montreat trips. The deadline is Dec. 1.

Date	Youth Sunday School at 9:00 am in Youth Room, Bullard Building	Confirmation at 9:00 am in Confirmation Room (Bullard Building)	Youth Choirs, Alphabet Generations, and Youth Group Schedule
Nov. 5	Matthew 23:1- 12 with Sarah Katherine	All Saints: The Lord's Supper 101	Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, Dinner & Youth Group at 6:00 pm, Music in
Nov. 12	Matthew 25:1- 13 with Sarah Katherine	Worship 101	Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, Dinner & Youth Group at 6:00 pm, Vocation,
Nov. 19	Matthew 25:14- 30 with Anna	Bible 101	No Youth Group, Choirs, or Al-
Nov. 26	Matthew 25:31- 46 with Allison	How Do We Know and Trust God?	Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, Potluck Dinner and Youth Group at 6:00 pm, Hymns
Dec. 3	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 with Sarah Katherine	Review Session and Mentor Discussion (IMPORTANT)	Youth Christmas Party at Church (Caroling and Dirty Santa) 3:00-5:00 pm; Choir at 5:00

Montreat Summer Trips: Montreat High School is for youth who are currently in 8th-12th grades and will be June 1-8, 2024. Middle School Montreat is for youth who are currently in 5-8th grades and will be July 17-21, 2024. Cost is \$365. A \$150 deposit is due by Dec 1 (\$50 of this is to increase the food budget). The remainder (\$215) is due Mar. 5. Scholarships are available.



Casseroles being made by our youth and volunteers



Children's Ministry in November:

Date	Children's Sunday School at 9:00 am Upstairs Bullard	Children's Church during Worship	Children's Choirs/Alphabet Generations/Dinner
Nov. 5	Matthew 22:34-46 and Children's Sunday Prep with Marian and Annie Boteler	Lions and Bears! with Edwin Perry & Courtney Perry	Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Dinner at 6:00 pm
Nov. 12	Children's Sunday, Mandatory Practice at 9:00 am with Anna, Marian, and Annie	Children's Sunday: No Children's Church	Children's Sunday, Children Sing in Worship; Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Dinner at 6:00 pm
Nov. 19	Matthew 25:14-30, Backpack for Kids with Annie and Mari-	No Children's Church	No Youth Group, Choirs, or Alphabet Generations
Nov. 26	Matthew 25:31-46 & Cards/WorshipBags with Annie and Mari-	David and the Giant with Susan Tomlinson & Buddy Porter	Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm
Dec. 3	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & Worship 101 with Linn and David Ayers	Cantata Sunday (No Children's Church)	Choirs at 5:00 pm, No Dinner

Children's Sunday: Calling all children ages 3-5th grade! We want your help leading worship, Nov. 12. If you are able and willing to read Scripture, lead a prayer, and share your gifts email Anna at anna@shpc.us. We will be preparing for Children's Sunday Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 and will have a dress rehearsal Nov. 12 at 9:00 am during KidsLead

Blessing of the Animals





GIVE TO OTHERS & HONOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

... by “shopping” SHPC’s **ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET** (AGM) form in December which features representative gifts of hope, benefitting support agencies in our local community and the world beyond.

Agencies selected for our 2023 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Victory Health Partners

Wings of Life

Penelope House

McKemie Place

Home of Grace

Family Promise

Heifer International

The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA)

Over the last seven years, our annual AGM average giving has been \$10,000. Let’s top that this year by honoring loved ones and giving Christmas gifts to others via our Alternative Gift Market.

AGM forms will be available in December in the hallways, narthex, church office, bulletins, and via an e-news link. 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 narthex, church hallway, or church office.

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



POINSETTIAS will be part of the decorations in the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one please call the church office (251-342-1550), email Marcia Wear (marcia@springhillprsbyterian.org), or sign up on the sheet in the hallways or the narthex. The cost is \$25.00, and the deadline is December 15. These plants will be taken to home-bound members in the name of the church.



GIFTS for CHILDREN & SENIOR ADULTS

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



It's ANGEL TREE TIME again! A time we all love – and because it's been so popular in the past, we are increasing our giving this year by sponsoring **25 children and 25 senior adults** (selected by Catholic Social Services) who need our love and support during the Christmas season.

Our Angel Tree will be in the sanctuary narthex throughout November, and we need sponsors for every angel. You might even want to join with another friend or family to sponsor “your angel.” Angel cards are usually selected very quickly, so if you are unable to select one in person in early November, but wish to participate, please contact Vera Lynn Sheets (251)-454-6846 or (251) 414-3510; sheetsvl@aol.com, and a card will be selected for you.

Each recipient's name and wish list will be on a GREEN angel card which you take home. Please complete the matching WHITE registry card for your recipient and leave the WHITE card on the tree for our records.

You will select one or more items (totaling \$50-60) from the gift list you choose and wrap and label each one with your recipient's name and angel #. **If there are multiple gifts, please enclose them all in a large, durable, heavy duty, reusable holiday shopping bag.** These work well to contain and support multiple gifts (usually \$1-2; found near the registers @TJ Maxx, Marshall's, Home Goods, etc.).

Gifts need to be delivered to the church parlor between Sunday, November 26 and Sunday, December 3.

Please use your selected GREEN angel card as the gift bag tag.

Fall Adult Educational Opportunities

See what's happening this fall at SHPC with Bible Discovery and Current Issues. Also, try something new! We have a new Sunday morning opportunity, Conversations with Scripture!

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

CONVERSATIONS WITH SCRIPTURE

This Fall join us for a new Sunday School option! This discussion based, small group class will meet at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Parlor. We will have discussion about how scripture can and does relate to our lives.

BIBLE DISCOVERY CLASS

Meet in the Conference Room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings and uses the PCUSA curriculum "Feasting on the Word" which studies the lectionary passages for each week. This class is for adults of all ages.

ALPHABET GENERATIONS

Meet in the Bullard Building at 5:00 PM on Sunday evenings. This class is for people in their 20s to early 50s. After the study, adults and their families are invited to stay for dinner at 6:00 pm.

Wednesdays @ Noon

PASTOR-LED BIBLE STUDY: WORD IN THE WEEK

This weekly engaging Bible study will meet from 12:00 - 1:00 PM on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall through Nov. 8. Our pastors will lead us on a journey through Genesis in this ten week study. Come explore these complex families of faith from Scripture. You are welcome to bring your own lunch for this "brown bag" style study.



2023 Fall Current Issues Class Rallies Around Timely Topics And Guest Speakers

Nov. 5 – Molly Wagner shares highlights from the book *Poverty by America* by noted sociologist and author Matthew Desmond. Why does poverty persist in a rich country like ours? Meet the author via video and discuss the data.

Nov. 12 – Guest speaker Linda Knight discusses her Christian Veterinary Mission to Malawi.

Nov. 19 – Cam Marston, host of "Keepin' It Real," an opinion show on Alabama Public Radio, will tell his personal story of grace: "What I learned after my stroke on the Journey to recovery."

Nov. 26 – Vera Lynn Sheets and Dale Hair will preview Advent devotional materials that our church will be using this year ("How does a weary world rejoice?") and a new Advent devotional series by Montreat keynote speaker Kate Bowler ("Bless the Advent We Actually Have").

Save the Dates



Mobile Museum of Art Tour

Many who attended Jon Carfagno's Sunday School class this summer were interested in a tour of the museum. Please circle **November 4 at 10:30** for a tour with Jon and Dutch treat lunch afterwards. A sign up sheet will be in the hall or contact Bonney Irwin at 251-680-2060 or bonneyi@bellsouth.net.

Ecumenical Services

St. Ignatius Catholic
Church

November 16 @

7:00 pm

In the Moon of Wintertime

Cantata Sunday 2023

December 3, 10:30 a.m.

Presented by the Chancel Choir

Chamber Orchestra- 10 musicians from the Mobile Symphony

Vocal Soloists

Randy Sheets, conductor

Classic Christmas Music by Bach, Handel, and Mendelssohn

Premieres of new music, mixed with scripture and poetry.

Don't miss this worship service, which is a highlight of the season here at SHPC.

Lessons and Carols

December 17

10:30

Christmas Services

December 24 @ 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 @ 4:00 pm

Family Christmas Eve

November 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Children's chapel Word in the week Chancel Choir Al- non	2	3	4 Mobile Museum Tour Yeoman work- day AA
5 Sunday Schools Worship - Communion Alphabet Gen Choirs Youth Group Dinner	6 MSC	7 MSC	8 Day Circle Childrens Chapel Word in the Week Night Circle Chancel choir Al- non	9	10	11 AA
12 Sunday School Wor- ship - Alphabet Gen Choirs Youth Group Dinner	13 MSC	14 MSC Session Diaconate	15 Al- non Chancel Choir	16 Ecumenical Service	17	18 AA
19 Sunday School Worship	20 Newsletter Deadline MSC	21 MSC	22 Al- non Church office closes at 12:00 pm	23 Thanksgiving Holidays Church office Closed		24 25 AA
26 Sunday School Worship - Alphabet Gen Choirs Youth Group Dinner	27 MSC	28 MSC	29 Children's chapel Chancel Choir Al- non	30		