



SPRING HILL MESSENGER October

Temptation

Once before I have talked about clergy friends who write sermons at coffee shops and others who lead theological discussions at micro-breweries. I know of a church that regularly celebrates theology and hymns at a local venue. I recently sat in a theater lobby and realized that movie customers don't regularly sit in the lobby. It seems like a perfectly reasonable place to sit. Theater lobbies are a cool escape on a hot Mobile summer day. And I love theater popcorn. The combination of a sweet fizzy drink with hot, salty popcorn is a temptation I can't resist.

What other temptations can I not resist? I think I am pretty good at setting the cruise control on my car when I start the drive to Birmingham. It's set at the speed limit. My favorite stop on that drive is at the Evergreen Conecuh store. I have to have a smoked sausage hot dog with mustard and relish. That's the way the hot dogs were served at the community pool when I was a teenager. That's still my favorite way to enjoy any type of meat in a long bun. I dress my hamburgers differently.

When I get back in my car to continue the trip to Birmingham (and this also works on the return trip to Mobile) it seems that I am then less patient. I no longer use the cruise control and I exceed the speed limit. I don't need to be in a hurry. I don't have a deadline for my arrival. I am looking forward to seeing Sally, but I know she will be at home when I arrive. I'm not anxious. What is it? Why do I give in to the temptation to drive faster? If I increase my speed from 70 to 80, I may gain a few minutes on the drive from Evergreen to Birmingham. But those minutes will be less time than I took enjoying my Conecuh sausage dog.

Maybe I give into the temptation of peer pressure. Maybe all of those cars and trucks passing me when I drive the speed limit is more than I can take. I must drive faster. I must keep up with all of those other cars and trucks. I just read those last few sentences and I feel silly for writing them. I'm a grown man. I don't have to keep up with anyone. I can drive, or walk, as slowly as I want. I'm not competing. I have nothing to prove.

If I think that while I am on the interstate, I slow down. Maybe I am temporarily tempted. Maybe I am briefly tempted and then regain my sense of direction. I can stay below the speed limit. I can stay on the path. I can follow the light. I can live a disciplined life. At least, sometimes.

But please, don't take away my popcorn in the theater.

Peace.
Cary



Dear SHPC Friends,

What is a blessing? We bless our food before we eat. We say, “Bless you.” after someone sneezes. We exclaim, “Bless her heart!” when we hear of someone’s difficulties. But what does it mean to bless?

We feel blessed when we know and experience God’s love, when we feel deep down that God is for us, God is with us, God’s grace and mercy are everlasting. God’s blessings surrounding us allows us to see the many gifts, blessings in our lives big and small. And God calls us to bless those around us—both by caring for those in our midst and through our words. We bless both people, animals, and things. It is why we are having a **Blessing of the Animals Vesper Service** October 22 at 4:00 pm. We bless our food, both so that we might see it as the sacred gift that is and that it might bless and strengthen our lives.

We hear in Genesis 12:2-3 “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curse you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This year for our Stewardship season, the theme is “Blessed to be a Blessing.” God calls us to see the abundance and gifts in our lives and from that give what we have and what we are to the glory of God. All that we have and all that we are, are gifts from God. It is easy to forget that. If we look for reasons to see scarcity, we will see lack. If we look for blessings, gifts, and God at work, God will open our eyes. Once you begin to see through kingdom eyes, you can’t help but find manna in deserts, a few loaves and fish that feed thousands, a sunrise that allows you to try again, a deep peace inside that passes all understanding. **October 15 is Dedication Sunday.** I hope you will consider the blessing that Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is in your life, our collective call to give and serve, and discern what that looks like for you. Now hear this blessing:

And so, may this blessing find you exactly where you are.

May it bless you, so that you will bless others.

God asks for sacrifice, giving, trusting, letting go, love—may you hold your hands open wide.

May your faith grow in the being blessed and the blessing.

May this blessing enrich, strengthen, and inspire your journey ahead, may it connect you to God and those around you.

In all of it may you know

You are loved.

You are called.

You are enough.

Amen

Grace, Peace, and Blessing on You Always,

Anna



A message from your Stewardship Committee

Hello, SHPC family! Stewardship season is all year round.

Dedication Sunday is October 15. On this day, in response to God's Word, we will together present our financial pledge cards and a time and talent survey as tangible representations of our commitment to Christ's service. You don't have to wait until Dedication Sunday though to submit these items, please call or email the church office or use the website to respond for next year's planning. **The Stewardship Committee cannot emphasize enough how important these written commitments are to the life of the church.**

The financial pledge cards inform our Budget and Finance Committee for next year's educational programming, missions, and regular expenditures. The budget preparation for the next calendar year begins in November to be finalized no later than January. If financial pledge cards aren't submitted in October, we are unable to fully plan for the next calendar year. While we are extremely appreciative of non-pledged giving, non-pledged giving makes it very difficult to budget and plan for our future. Additionally, we all are aware that costs are higher now than in years prior. SHPC is not immune to these rising costs. Committee chairs and staff are thoughtfully planning the work of the congregation while monitoring the funds they use to do so, but we need more to ensure our future. The flip side to this is that if we can receive the financial pledges, we can budget not only for next year and our future, but we have potential to grow areas of mission and ministry that we all value.

The time and talent survey show how you want to be involved! If you have ever thought to yourself, "Why do I keep seeing the same people repeatedly doing the same things at the church?! I wouldn't mind helping sometimes, why doesn't anyone ever ask me?" It's because we didn't know you had an interest or talent you'd like to share! If you have an interest in being a Liturgist, Committee work, serve as a small group leader, sending cards, preparing food bags for children in need, or any other interest, the time and talent survey will help to connect you into the life and mission of the church to serve the greater community.

We ask that you please prayerfully consider what you are called to do with your resources in the coming year and submit your financial pledge cards and a time and talent survey as soon as possible. Thank you so much for all that you do in the life of our church to help one another as well as extend God's love out into our community.

Grace and peace,

Courtney Perry,

Harvie Jordan,

and Mark Scott

SHPC Stewardship Committee

Statement as of August 31, 2023

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 765,766
Year-to-date Received	\$ 501,847
Other Receipts	\$ 29,995
Total Receipts	\$ 531,842
Benevolences	\$ 36,490
Salaries and Services	\$ 313,481
Programs	\$ 24,486
Office Expenses	\$ 17,546
General and Plant Ser-	\$ 174,772
Other	\$ 17,016
Total Expenses	\$ 583,791
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ (51,949)

Welcome New Members

On Sundays Sept 17 and Oct 1, 2023, we received new members. Here they are.



Gail Kouame – a librarian with the University of South Alabama. Gail is married to Evan, who is also a librarian with the Mobile Public Library. Gail has grown children who live out of state. Gail is a lifelong Presbyterian who has served previous churches as elder and deacon, and has already joined our choir.

Shawn and Jim Drake – come to us from the First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, AR. They have both served as officers in the Presbyterian Church. Shawn is the director of the department of physical therapy at the University of South Alabama. Jim is a banker. They have two children out of the nest. Jim and Shawn have both joined the Alphabet Generations group on Sunday evenings.



Lori and Johnny Dorminey – come to us from the United Methodist Church. Their daughter Ava completed confirmation class here and their son Jake is currently in the confirmation class. Ava joined with her parents. Jake will join with the current confirmation class in the spring. Lori is a preschool Speech and Language Pathologist. Johnny is a chemical engineer with Chevron.

Grace Dunbar and Jacob Chaffin – both are transferring from different United Methodist Churches. Grace is a medical student at USA. Jacob is a pilot with PSA Airlines. Grace and Jacob are engaged to be married at Spring Hill in February 2024.




Marcia Willett— comes from the Grand Bay Presbyterian Church where she served the last eight years as the CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder), lay pastor. Marcia has grown children who live out of state. Marcia retired from the Grand Bay Church on a Sunday and by that Wednesday was off on a trip to Scotland. She has already contacted Randy about voice lessons. I hope that means she plans to join the choir.

How to Serve this Month

Trunk or Treat will be happening Thursday, Oct. 26 from 5:30-6:30 pm. We need lots of trunks (and people to dress-up and host them) and candy. Sign-up in the hallway.

We are looking for people who would be willing to serve a meal on **Sunday nights to our Youth Group, Alphabet Generations**, and Children on Nov. 5, 12, and Dec. 3. This meal is for about 30-40 people, and you can be reimbursed for the cost of the meal. Email/Call Anna if you are interested.

Friday, Oct. 27 is the Fall Festival at **Mary B Austin**. We need people to help children decorate pumpkins. Sign-up on the Partners in Education Bulletin board in the hallway.



November 4 @ 10:30
Mobile Museum of Art
Tour

Stewardship October 1
Biscuits with Blessings

Presbyterian
Women
Sunday
October 29

**Save the
Dates**

Trunk or
Treat
Oct 26 5:30

Dedication Sunday
October 15
New Member reception after
worship

**BLESSING OF THE
ANIMALS**
OCTOBER 22, 4:00 PM

Eco-Justice means working to heal, defend, and work toward justice for all God's Creation and all people.



The Presbyterian Hunger Program is partnering with **Blessed Tomorrow** to offer a free, live virtual Climate Ambassador Training on the October 28, from 11am - 3pm CT. This training equips you with the knowledge, experience, and resources to speak and take action on climate change in your home, neighborhood, place of worship, community with policymakers, and beyond.

Information and free registration:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2023/08/15/plan-now-to-attend-oct-28-online-free-climate-ambassador-training/>

(Tip: You can also complete this 4-5-hour training online, on your own schedule. Register at <https://blessedtomorrow.org/blessed-tomorrow-ambassadors-training/>)

October 22 Speaker at SHPC

Lella Lowe will speak on the topic of *Creation Care and Climate Migration* for the Current Issues Sunday School class on October 22nd. Lella is a founding member of *Gulf Coast Creation Care* and attends the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Mobile.



THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY OF the congregation are with Billy and Gayla Wiik on the death of Billy's sister, Andrea Wiik Hinton, on September 1, 2023.



CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Fitzgerald on the birth of her great granddaughter, Olivia Ruth Browning on September 22, 2023, in Pensacola, FL.

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Janet Clarke, Donna Masso Cook, Jamie Crawford, Sherry Coats, 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.

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

Meets 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

Meets 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.

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

Here is what's on the agenda for October:

The class meets in person in Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

Participation via Zoom will be offered, when possible .

Oct. 1 Biscuits with Blessings

Oct 8 Dumas Wesley Community Center - Sybil Smith

Oct. 15 Quinn Hillyer - Author

Oct 22 Creation Cart & Climate Migration - Lella Lowe

Oct. 29 Alabama Arise - Presdelane Harris

Youth Ministry this Fall

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.

Oct 1	Stewardship Event	Stewardship Event	Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, Dinner & Youth Group at 6:00 pm: Montreat Meeting, Blessing of the Animal Sign-Ups, and Devotional
Oct. 8	Matthew 21:33-46 with SK	Confessions 101	No Youth Group, Choirs, or Alphabet Generations
Oct. 15	Matthew 22:1-14 with Allison	Jesus Christ 101	Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, Dinner and Youth Group at 6:00 pm, Mission Project, Making Casseroles
Oct. 22	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 with Sarah Katherine	Presbyterian Polity 101	Blessing of the Animals: Youth Helping Arrive at 3:30 pm, Service: 4:00 pm Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm



Religious Arts

ART IN THE LIBRARY

Art in the Library welcomes the work of Ann Holston for September and October. Ann is an active member of our church and community and you will want to see her paintings and her more recent passion of making jewelry. She welcomes orders and has ongoing stock at the Mobile Botanical Gardens shop and at Innova Arts on Old Shell Road. Please come take a look.

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.

Children's Ministry this Fall

Nursery is available for our youngest worshippers (birth-3 years) from 9:00-11:30 am in the Bullard Building.

Children's Sunday School is each Sunday morning at 9:00 am for children 3K-5th grade. Our Children will be using the PCUSA curriculum, "Feasting on the Word" engaging in Scripture for 45 minutes then doing service projects for 15 minutes each week.

Children's Church is back! Children's Church is for children 3K-1st grade. Our young children will stay in worship through the Children's Message and then will walk over to the Bullard Building with two volunteers to hear a story and engage in learning centers.

Children's Choirs will typically meet three times a month. This year Children's Choirs will be in the Bullard Building. Alphabet Generations will be meeting at 5:00 pm during Children's Choirs.

Biscuits with Blessings

Oct. 1	Songs of Gratitude & Matthew 21:23-32 with Emily Thurston and Mary Anne Brown	I'll Do It, Moses and the Burning Bush with Ginny Sprinkle & Jo Barton	Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Dinner at 6:00 pm
Oct. 8	Matthew 21:33-46 & Alternative Gift Market Items with Emily and Mary Anne	Safe at Last! Moses & the Red Sea with Cindy Campbell & Ashley Oliver	No Youth Group, Choirs, or Alphabet Generations
Oct. 15	Matthew 22:1-14, Backpack for Kids, and Cards with Emily and Mary Anne	What is it? Manna with Jodi Morvant & Clark Powell	Dedication Sunday: Children Sing in Worship, Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Dinner at 6:00 pm
Oct. 22	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Cards, & Worship Bags with Emily and Mary Anne	A Baby for Hannah with Sara McGough & Sydney McGough	Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 pm, Alphabet Generations & Choirs at 5:00 pm, No Dinner
Oct. 29	Matthew 22:34-46 and Children's Sunday Prep with Emily and Mary Anne	Samuel! Samuel! with Daniel McGough & Brian Duke	Choirs & Alphabet Generations at 5:00 pm, and Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm



TRUNK OR TREAT

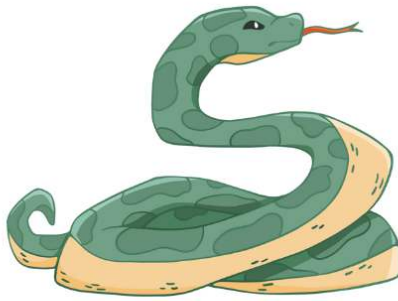
SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

10 WESTMINSTER WAY

October 26th

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

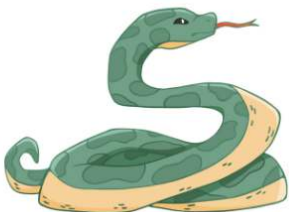
SEE YOU THERE!



Blessing of the Animals



October 22 at
4:00 pm
10
Westminster
Way



October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday School Worship - Communion Stewardship	2 MSC Outreach Committee	3 MSC	4 Children's Chapel Word in the Week PWCT Chancel choir Al- Anon	5	6	7 AA
8 Sunday School Worship	9 Church of- fice Closed	10 MSC	11 Children's Chapel Word in the Week Chancel choir Al- Anon Day Circle	12	13	14 Yeoman AA
15 Dedication Sunday Sunday School Worship New Member Reception	16 MSC	17 MSC Session Diaco- nate	18 Children's Chapel Word in the Week Chancel choir Al- Anon	19 Newsletter Dead- line	20	21 AA
22 Sunday School Worship Blessing of the Animals	23 MSC	24 MSC	25 Children's Chapel Word in the Week Chancel choir Al- Anon	26 Trunk or Treat	27 Mary B. Austin Fall Festival	28 AA
29 Sunday School Worship- PW Sunday	30 MSC	31				