



SPRING HILL MESSENGER October 2024

Dear Saints of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church,

As we enter this season, our church is filled with vibrant activities, each one an opportunity to grow deeper in faith, service, and community. This October, we reflect on **discipleship**—how we respond to Christ's call to follow and serve. We are also in **stewardship season**, a time when we prayerfully consider how our time, talents, and treasures contribute to the work of the Kingdom.

Stewardship is more than giving; it is living in response to God's abundant blessings. As a covenant community, we come together not only in worship but also in service to one another and to the world. This month, I invite you to consider the many ways you can renew your commitment to God and the community through our shared ministry.

October begins with **World Communion Sunday**, a celebration of our unity with Christians around the globe. As we gather at the Lord's table, we are reminded that our community extends beyond borders, reflecting the diversity and richness of God's creation. This is a time to recommit to our discipleship as members of Christ's body. Through the bread of life we are renewed for living lives that reflect the light of Christ for the world to see. Below are various ways for each of us to find a place in the body of Christ to grow closer as a family and in faith.

We are blessed with opportunities to engage in fellowship, service, and celebration this month. Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Blessing of the Animals Service:** Bring your pets and join us for a special service celebrating the beauty of God's creation.
- **Yeomen's Work Day:** Let's come together in service to care for the church grounds, reminding us that stewardship includes caring for the gifts God has entrusted to us.
- **Dedication Sunday:** On this day, we will offer our pledges of time, talent, and treasure. This is a sacred moment to reflect on how we are called to participate in God's work.
- **Trunk or Treat Event:** A joyful celebration for the community. We invite you to help make this event a success by bringing candy, decorating your car, and sharing the fun with neighbors.
- **Mobile Opera's Hansel and Gretel:** This is a beautiful way to engage with the arts, appreciating the creative gifts God has given and supporting the wider cultural community.
- **Youth Group and Children's Choir:** Encourage our young ones to grow in faith and expression. These ministries are places where discipleship takes root in the hearts of our future leaders.

Installation Service: I am humbled to invite you to this special service marking a new chapter in our shared journey of faith. Together, we are bound by a covenant to support one another in ministry and service. October 27, at 4:00 pm.

Looking ahead, we will gather for a special **All Saints Choir Performance** to remember and honor those who have gone before us, whose faith continues to inspire us. This sacred time offers a moment to reflect on the cloud of witnesses surrounding us as we live out our discipleship. (November 1st)

As we move through this busy and exciting month, I encourage you to see these events not as tasks to check off but as moments of grace where we can live into the fullness of our calling. **Stewardship is our grateful response to God's generosity**—our participation in the unfolding story of faith. Whether you join a committee meeting, offer your talents in the choir, give a pledge on Dedication Sunday, or decorate a car for Trunk or Treat, each act is a reflection of your discipleship and commitment to the covenant community we share.

Together, let us embrace this season of renewal, recognizing that in each opportunity, God's blessings flow through us and into the world.

In Christ's Love, Rev. Brandon E. Miles



Celebrate God's Abundance!

DEDICATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 20, 2024

At Spring Hill Presbyterian Church we hear God's word, grow in faith and are challenged in mission. Here we baptize, confirm, marry, and bury our loved ones. Our giving is one way we can glorify God and point to God's amazing love and grace for all of us.

On October 20 we will turn in our pledge cards and complete our Time and Talent Surveys. You may also go to the church's website (www.shpc.us) to complete these forms. Rev. Betsy Swetenburg from Northridge Presbyterian Church in Dallas will serve as our guest preacher on Dedication Sunday. Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service we will celebrate God's goodness with a luncheon in the Bullard Building. Please sign up for lunch in the Back Hall or by contacting the church office at 251-342-1550. Come and celebrate!



Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg has served Northridge Presbyterian Church in Dallas since 2020. She attended Davidson College where she majored in English and then went on to Columbia Theological Seminary where she earned her Master of Divinity. Prior to Northridge, she served as Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia and as Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Columbia Theological Seminary. Betsy enjoys life with her husband and fellow North Carolinian, Owen, and their son, Harris.

All Saints Day Service

Musical All Saints Day Service of Remembrance and Celebration

Friday, Nov. 1, 2024

in our Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.

Guest Singers from Tuscaloosa

Choirs of First Presbyterian and Grace Presbyterian Churches

Rev. Brandon Miles, *liturgist*

The Red Mountain Jazz Collective will lead us in a Second Line

from the service to a

Reception in the Fellowship Hall

Former SHPC Choir Singers Danny and Ellen Potts are two of the singers.



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

ANGEL TREE GIFTS for CHILDREN & SENIOR ADULTS

It's ANGEL TREE TIME again! Yes, you read that right! Though it's only October, the mission committee wants everyone to begin thinking about sponsoring one of the 25 children and 25 senior adults (selected by Catholic Social Services) who need our love and support during this Christmas season. We need sponsors for every angel. You might even want to join with another friend or family to sponsor “your angel.” Our Angel Tree will be in the sanctuary narthex throughout November, beginning 11/3, and angel cards are usually selected very quickly. Watch for detailed information in the weekly e-news.



Eugenia Gamble's NEW Book

Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit

All Adult Sunday School Classes will meet together at 9:00 on October 6th to hear Eugenia Gamble present an overview of her new book, *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*. This will be a churchwide event; and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Follow-up conversation based on this book will be offered in each of the Adult Sunday School Classes on October 13th and 20th.

Cost is \$20.00 from Westminster John Knox Press or Amazon (some other sources as well). Eugenia Gamble will bring some books for purchase when she speaks on October 6th.

Oct. 13 and 20: **Current Issues** will have a 2-Sunday follow-up discussion on highlights from Eugenia Gamble's book. What resonated with you and what practices would you like to "grow" in your life?

Presbyterian Women Sunday on October 13

One Sunday each year is set aside to honor the many ways that the women of the church contribute their time and talents within our church and through mission projects. All aspects of the worship service, except the sermon, will be led by women; and one person, whose contributions to the church have been exceptional, will be honored with the Presbyterian Women's Lifetime Membership Award. A reception to celebrate the new Lifetime honoree will be held in Fellowship Hall after worship.





Walk a Forest Therapy Trail

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is a member of *Gulf Coast Creation Care*. (<https://gulfcoastcreationcare.org/member-congregations>) Below is an announcement about a recent project, including one location near our church.

GULF COAST CREATION CARE IS EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO BRING THE FIRST FOREST THERAPY TRAILS TO LOWER ALABAMA AND WEST FLORIDA.

Four self-guided Forest Therapy Trails have been installed:

- **Mobile Japanese Garden, 700 Forest Hill Dr., Mobile, Alabama.** (*Across Zeigler Blvd from Langan Park and MMofA. Open daily. Entrance is free.*)
- **Live Oak Loop at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama.**
- **Baars-Firestone Wildlife Sanctuary Trail on the campus of the University of West Florida in Pensacola.** Access the trail from the East Campus entrance off of N. Davis Highway. Follow Campus Drive to the first right, Old Ferry Pass Road. Use the left entrance to the Cross Country Trail just across from the parking lot on Old Ferry Pass Road.
- **William and Mary Hooper Trail at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center, 10400 Beckwith Lane, Fairhope, Alabama.** Please call before visiting: 251-928-7844.

Forest therapy, forest bathing, and shinrin-yoku are all terms for a practice to improve health that began in Japan in the 1980s. Forest therapy can be either active or restful. Active practices can include vigorous walking, yoga, and breathing forest air deeply into the lungs. Restful practices can involve slowing down, breathing deeply, contemplation, and close observation of surroundings.

Forest therapy and time spent in nature have been proven to have many health benefits including decreased stress levels, anxiety, depression, and frequency of headaches; help with anger issues and weight loss; enhanced cognitive function; and improved immune function.



JOIN US FOR THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

We invite you and your beloved pets to a special Blessing of the Animal service on October 13th at 4 p.m. This cherished tradition honors the sacred bond between humans and all living creatures, celebrating the beauty of God's creation. Whether your companion is furry, feathered, or scaled, all are welcome! Come experience a moment of gratitude and blessing as we acknowledge the animals who share our lives and bring us joy. We hope you will join us to gather in community and bless the pets who bless us each and every day.



Statement as of August 31, 2024

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 784,994
Year-to-date Received	\$ 521,318
Other Receipts	\$ 48,881
Total Receipts	\$ 570,199
Benevolences	\$ 35,279
Salaries and Services	\$ 299,057
Programs	\$ 18,251
Office Expenses	\$ 17,336
General and Plant Services	\$ 231,075
Other	\$ 17,377
Total Expenses	\$ 618,374
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ (48,175)

Attendance for the Month of September

September 1
134

September 8
183

September 15
130

September 22
121

September 29



TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is on October 24th from 5:30 - 6:30 PM! Sign up to host a trunk, and bring the little ones! Costumes are encouraged! We will have lots of candy, and a contest for best trunk and best costume.

OCTOBER 24TH 2024

5:30 - 6:30 PM



10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL, United States, 36608
(251) 342-1550 | www.shpc.us | [@SpringHillPresbyterian](https://twitter.com/SpringHillPresbyterian)

MEMORIALS

Sallie Connell Dick Pennington Phyliss Thomas

Ernest Bulwinkle

Barbara Drey

Betty Jackson

Dale Hair

THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with the family and friends of Sallie Connell.



Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Ted Autterson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, John Carr, Lanier Cauley, Janet Clarke, Deneen Massa Cook, Sherry Coats, Jamie Crawford, Kathi Dagley, Bron Dixon, Rhen Druhan, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks, Gwen Greer, Charles Hall, Ann Hafner, Bill Harris, Marcy Harris, Lauren Henson, Betty Jackson, Bill Layfield, Celia Ledbetter, Steve Ledbetter, Paula Letterman, Becky Lord, Kay Korb, Jacque Marrero, Lynn Martin, Ernestine McElroy, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Margie Spaulding, Jean Stevens, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Marcia Willett, Ann Wilson, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.

October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday School @ 9:00 Worship @ 10:30 Youth & children's Choir 5:00 Youth, children & parents Dinner @ 6:00 Youth Group @ 6:30		1 Staff Meeting Committees	2 PWCT Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	3	4	5
6 Worship World Communion Day	7 Outreach	8 Staff Meeting Finance Com- mittee	9 Day Circle Afternoon Circle Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 Worship - PW Sunday Blessing of the Animals	14 Office Closed	15 Staff Meeting Session Diaconate	16 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	17	18 Mobile Opera Hansel & Gretel	19
20 Worship - Stewardship Sunday	21	22 Staff Meeting	23 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	24 Trunk or Treat	25	26
27 Worship Brandon's Installation Service	28	29 Staff Meeting	30 Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir	31	1 All Saints Worship Service.	

