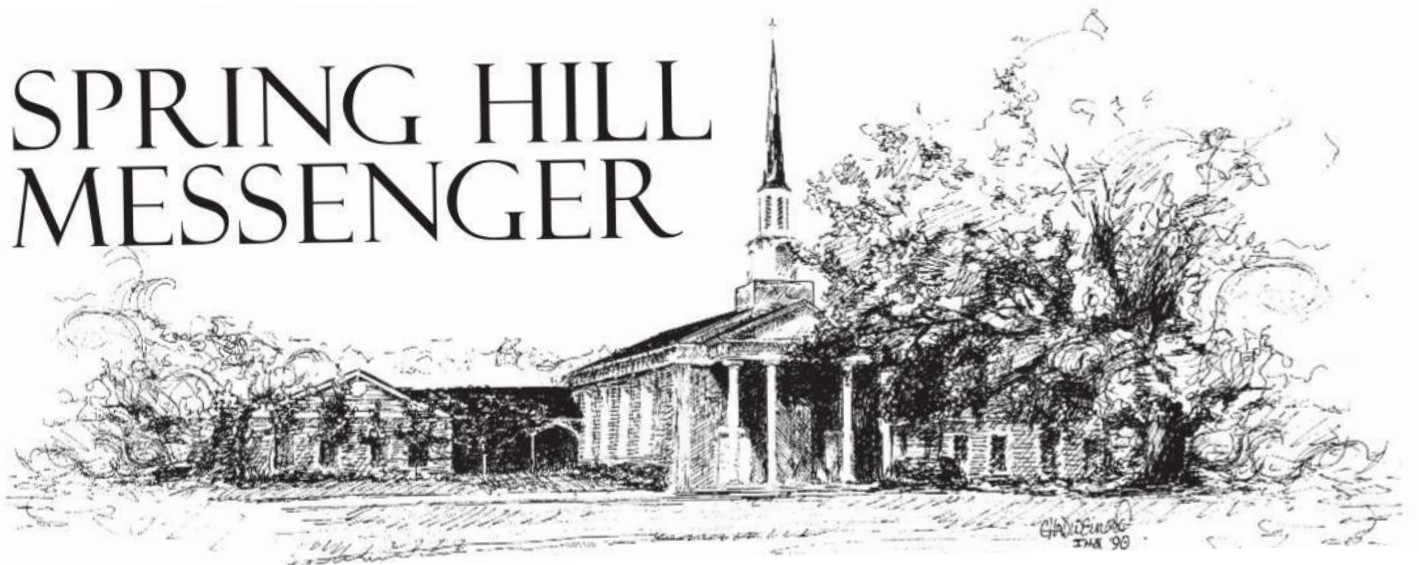


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 83, Number 17, September, 2018

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY,

In this month of September we will set sail into an exciting series of worship services for the Fall. “Journeying Together” will be our theme as we recall the life-long journey of discipleship that Jesus calls us to embark upon. We’ll also remember others in the community of faith of who are called to sojourn with us—Christianity isn’t a solo endeavor! We need each other to get to the place that God is calling us to go. The guiding metaphor for this theme is image of a boat—which was used by ancient Christians to symbolize the church. Many important moments in scripture (from Noah and the Ark, Jonah’s running away, Jesus calling the disciples, calming the storm, and walking on water) all feature boats as the prominent location for the community of faith. We’ll examine these stories and more in our sermons during this season.

Another story that we’ll explore is when Jesus instructs the disciples, who are fishing on a boat, to cast their nets “on the other side.” The result is an abundant catch of fish so large that they can barely haul it in. Taking risks by trying something new is hard. It’s unfamiliar, fraught with fear of failure. Such risks may not produce the results that we’ve come to expect. Yet Jesus calls us, time and time again, to cast our nets “on the other side.” This year our Stewardship Committee is

“IF I TAKE THE
WINGS OF THE
MORNING AND
SETTLE AT THE
FARTHEST LIMITS
OF THE SEA, EVEN
THERE YOUR HAND
SHALL LEAD ME” —
PSALM 139:9-10

trying something new with a **redesigned Time & Talent form (one is included here in your newsletter)**. As you’ll see, the document is shorter, simpler, and intended to be a guide to your prayerful reflection about the gifts you have and how you might put them to service for

Christ and his Church. You may notice that the form is no longer organized by committees but by the principle verbs in our church’s Mission Statement: **“To glorify God and make disciples who witness and serve!”** Over the coming days, please prayerfully examine how God is calling you to serve in our church family, and especially consider how you are being called to cast your net “on the other side” and try something completely new and different.

These Time & Talent forms will be collected and dedicated in worship on **Sunday,**

September 23, so please plan to bring them to church that morning. If you need extra copies of the form for other members of your household, please pick them up from the church at any time. There is also a specially-designed Time & Talent form just for children.

An easy to use electronic version of the form is available on our church website: www.SHPC.us. As we journey together into the future that God has prepared for us, we need each and every one of us in this church family to share our time and talents. All Aboard!



Verbalize your Truth. God Listens.

Dear Friends,

How are you? Really? Often, we ask the question, “How are you?” as a way of greeting, a quick check-in. The standard responses I give and almost always hear are, “Fine” or “Busy.” As a society, we often do not truly stop and pause to really say, how we are truly doing. Feelings are often buried. We pile up things in our lives to avoid discovering how we actually feel. We look at our phones instead of within ourselves to check in. Often, I think we do this because we are afraid of what we might find. We are afraid of the anger, hurt, sadness, grief, shame that we might have to confront. And there is a pressure to be happy—for our outside appearance to look bright and shiny.

Yet, all of this emotional burying does not really work. Emotions have a way of creeping back up when we do not want them to. The Tahitians have one of the highest suicide rates in the world, and researchers wondered why. A researcher, Robert Levy went and observed the Tahitian culture, and found that they did not have a word for sadness. Because of this, their sadness was never verbalized. Neither did they have a ritual or practice to share their sorrow. It makes me wonder, if rising rates of depression, suicide, and anxiety in our country could be linked in part because we struggle with ways to verbalize and share our pain with others. We need to lament, to share our suffering, and we struggle with where to turn.

Luckily, our Scriptures are full of places to turn when our words do not suffice, when we need to express our loss, pain, and sorrow. In the Old Testament Theology class I took this summer (which you are probably tired of hearing of), we focused on the Candor of the Psalms. The Psalms, the prayer book and the hymn book of our Scripture, are not just full of praise but lament too. Words like Psalm 88:

“O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.”

This psalm, Psalm 88 does not end in hope. There is not resolution to the psalmists' lament. Sometimes, we too are in the middle of our pain where there is not resolution. But God can handle our pain, our lament. Our tough words are okay even when the resolution seems impossible.

I wonder if equipping ourselves with the language and prayers of lament found in the Psalms, could help us verbalize the suffering in their souls. Maybe it would help us all not to stifle our voices and the voices around us, but lift our suffering, the world's suffering to God. A huge need in our world right now, is not to fake happiness, but to reach out to one another, to voice our internal realities. This language of lament has the power to save lives. It also adds dimension to our God, who is big enough to handle our rawest emotions. Praying these Psalms might help us become a church that doesn't speak half-truths but is open to cry out and reaches out to the suffering in our world. It might help us become a church that is present—and doesn't move so quickly to resurrection (or Sunday).

So, may you open up your Bibles to see the laments of those who come before us and lift up your own laments and sorrows to God. Share your struggles. You are not alone.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke

Is It Advent Already?



THE HEIFER PROJECT CHALLENGE

As we approach the Christmas season, please read the following beautiful letter written anonymously by one of our church members. This letter tells how one family handles gifts to the Heifer Project.

THE MOST IMPORTANT CATALOGUE IN THE WORLD

How many of you get Christmas catalogues in the mail? How many of you get more Christmas catalogues in the mail than you would ever care to receive? This is to introduce you to one which will not come to you – you will have to make an effort to get it; yet, it is the most important gift catalogue in the world.

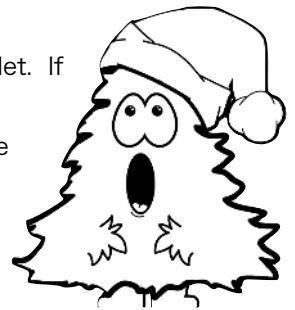
During the Spanish Civil War in 1936-1939, Dan West worked in the front lines as an aid worker. From this vantage point he saw, first hand, the devastating effects of that conflict in the forms of hunger and lack of clothing. So it was that he founded Heifer International in 1944. His vision, which has now become reality, was that, instead of providing food to the hungry and clothing to those in need of it, a methodology which would give them the requisite animals, education and training necessary to provide food and clothing for them and others would enable that methodology to produce an unending stream of renewable resources.

God has graced our family with an abundance of material gifts. Because of this, my wife and I have used the Christmas Season to teach the younger generation what is truly necessary and important and how one's priorities should be ordered. In this regard, my wife and I have chosen to take the funds which would otherwise go toward gifts for each individual family member and use those funds to make a donation to Heifer International. Every year on Christmas Eve a card is passed around the dinner table so that everyone, most importantly, the children, can learn specifically what composite gift, given in each of their names, has been given to those most in need. In this way, hopefully, a blessed tradition of giving will be perpetuated.

This year, we challenge you to start the same tradition.

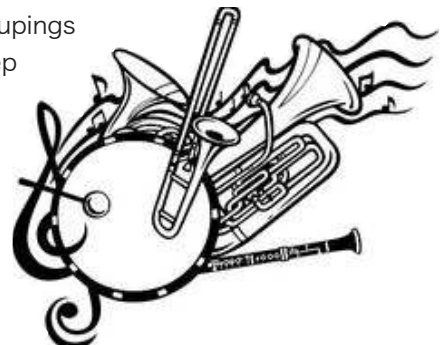
Advent already?

As we approach the Advent season, the Worship Committee is making plans for the annual booklet of Advent devotionals. This year, we are seeking volunteers from the congregation to write a brief devotional – three or four paragraphs – for the booklet. If you like to write and are interested in knowing more about this project, please contact Nancy Adams at nbadams123@gmail.com or the church office.



INSTRUMENTALISTS, ARISE!

Soon our intergenerational instrumental ensemble will begin their new season. Persons from middle school age through adulthood who play concert band instruments (woodwinds or brass) are encouraged to contact director Buddy Porter to let him know of your interest. In addition to times when everyone plays together, there will also be opportunities for smaller groupings to play. Keep your eyes peeled for details about the start-up. You may contact Buddy at cporter43@mchsi.com or at 344-7307.



Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

Ready. Set. Rally!!!

RALLY DAY, Sept. 9 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall! Are you unsure of what Sunday school class you want to try? Come to Rally Day on September 9 in the Fellowship Hall! We will begin with a few breakfast snacks and mingling at 9 am. There will be tables with mission opportunities to get involved in. After a breakfast snack and a quick game, we will gather in the Sanctuary to hear about all of the Sunday morning activities offered this Fall. We will then invite Sunday school groups to break-out so you can meet people in a smaller environment.

RALLY EVENING Activities! Don't forget that Young Adult Group, Youth Group, and Children's Choirs also kick-off on Sunday, Sept. 9!

Commitment Problems ???!

Can't Commit to a Weekly Volunteer Responsibility at M.B. Austin Elementary? We Have a NEW Approach to Volunteering that Fits YOUR Schedule for 2018!

Have you ever read a book to a five or six-year old? Have you ever listened to a child or grandchild read and helped him or her figure out unknown words? Of course you have!! And we can all do first-grade math! If so, YOU are already qualified for our NEW approach to volunteering in a kindergarten or first-grade class at Mary B. Austin this fall.

A monthly calendar will be posted on the Volunteer Bulletin Board in the hallway near the Conference Room. Teacher requests for dates/times when a volunteer would be appreciated will be indicated on the calendar for the current month and for the following month. Simply write your name beside any time slot when you are willing to volunteer, and Dale Hair will be in touch. We will make this fun and easy for you! Give it a try.

Books to read to the children or other resources will be provided, as needed. More information will be forthcoming in August. Volunteers will begin in September. You can be that special person who brings a smile to a child and a teacher!

Mary B. Austin Classroom Volunteer Coordinator:
Dale Hair, dale@joehair.com, (770) 335-3391.

PW Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will gear up for the year with a special Council Meeting on August 29 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room. The regular Coordinating Team will meet on September 5 at 10:00 am. Circles will begin on September 12.

Members of the Coordinating Team are:

Moderator	Susan Tomlinson
Moderator Elect	Gayla Wiik
Vice Moderator of Spiritual Growth and Stewardship	Janie Sims
Historian	Melissa Root
Secretary	Dale Hair
	Donna Massa
Treasurer	Sylvia Weinard
Advisory Board	Donna Massa

Circle Chairmen

Circle 1	Co-Chair – Marcy Harris
	Carol Sumrall
Circle 2	Chair – Donna Massa

2019 Life Membership Committee

Sally Cobb
Gayla Wiik
Susan Tomlinson

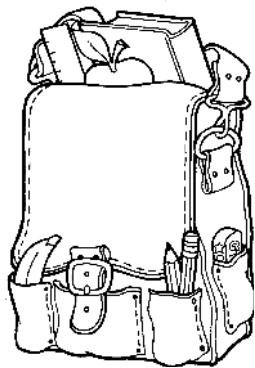
Circle #1 (Day Circle) project is collecting paper goods and laundry supplies for the Ronald McDonald House food pantry as well as cleaning and laundry supplies to assist the guest residents. They also decorate the church for Easter and Christmas and deliver plants to the shut-ins on Valentine's Day. They will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle #2 (Night Circle) project is the Presbyterian Home for Children and collecting box tops for local schools. They also collect funds throughout the year to send a check for Christmas gifts for the Children in the Presbyterian Home. They will meet in the Parlor

Other Important Dates:

Every Tuesday	Quilters – 9:30 am
Last Tuesday	Prayer Shawl Ministry-10:00 am
September 15	Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian in Foley
October 14	Life Membership Meeting and Reception
May 8	Birthday Luncheon and Officer installation
June 13-15	AL/MS Women's Conference

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.

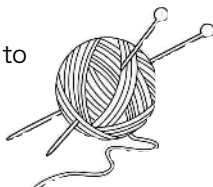
- 1. Drop off Foods.** Suggested food items are on a list in the hallway and the food can be dropped off at any time in the barrel in the Bride's room.
- 2. Make a Financial Donation.** If you wish to make a donation, make your check out to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with a note that the check is for the Backpack Ministry and bring the check to the office or place it in the collection plate on Sunday.
- 3. Fill A Backpack.** Join in on days when Backpacks are filled in the Bullard Building. It's fun!

The schools and students are very appreciative and grateful for the assistance we provide with the Backpack for Kids Ministry.

Spring Hill Knitters (& crochet queens) - a skein of real Purls!!!

Now that summer's over, it is time to get together again and see what everyone has been working on (or not!) in this heat.

It will be good to see everyone again, and we urge anyone who can knit or purl to join us on Tuesday, September 25th in the Bullard Building. at 10:00 a.m. You don't have to be an expert (we wouldn't want to "needle" you) You could work on a full-size prayer shawl – or a pocket-size one, too. (There is a basket of those for the taking in the hallway behind the sanctuary, so check them out.) Since our inception in June of 2013, we have given out 76 prayer shawls to those in need of comfort in times of need. Many thanks to all those who have contributed their time and talent.



Children's Ministry News:

We are looking forward to returning to the usual routine for children's Sunday school. The pattern of combining all ages, 3 years old through Fifth grade, will continue this year. After everyone hears the same story, there will be a variety of activities for all levels of learning. We also rely on our older children to help the younger ones with activities.

On Rally day, September 9, we will meet in the sanctuary and then head to the Bullard building for a quick lesson. We will hear about God's promise to Abraham and Sarah. If time permits, we will build an altar and give thanks to God for his blessings.

The lesson for September 16 will be about God's blessings for Ishmael and Isaac. The children will learn that all families have problems, but God cares for us even when we feel alone.

On September 23, the story will be about Joseph and his dreams of being a king. We will discuss how these dreams made Joseph's brothers angry. The children will learn that God had a plan to turn this jealousy into something good.

To wrap up the month of September, the story will be of the exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt. The class will talk about what they would take from their homes if they had to leave quickly. They will also discuss the long journey ahead for the Hebrews, but that God will be with them every step of the way.

Church Officers Elected

A congregational meeting was held in the sanctuary August 19, 2018, following worship, to elect a new slate of Deacons, Elders and a Trustee. Each person listed was contacted and agreed to serve. Be sure to thank these members for their willingness to serve.

Elders: Susan Baker, Chad Brown, Lanier Cauley, Sally Cobb, Dale Hair, Barkley Shreve.

Deacons: Ted Auttersen, Judy Falls, Sara McGough, Annie Olivera, Susan Tomlinson, Calvin Weaver, Jr., Carolyn Wikle.

Trustee: Lewis Shreve



Journeying together Through Music

**You are invited to the
Children's Choir Kick off!**

Sunday, September 9

**4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall**

**All children ages 3 (by Sept. 1) through 5th grade
are welcome.**

**Come and enjoy singing,
crafts, games and snacks.**



**Memorials have been received
for the following:**

Barbara Frazier Peterson
Liz Stapleton Hill
Mary Byrd
Alex Lankford
Linda Fletcher
Toni Pearce
Bob and Mary Byrd

From the following:

Lewis and Barkley Shreve
Andy and Mary Lena Harper
Bernard and Mary Clare Kearse
Roy and Sue Martino
Murray and Anne Meador
Bennett and Elizabeth Crtee
Vernon and Sallie Hunter
Barbara Drey
Hilda Gewin
Lyman and Leannah Holland
Bruce and Sylvia Weinard
Louis and Jane Williams
Dick and Lila Pennington
Royce and Pat Ray
Ruth Fitzgerald
Nick Vrakelos
Dianne Vulevich
Clifton and Genie Inge
J. Manson and Marietta Murray
Wildon and Mary Lou Mareno
William Harrison
Matthew Metcalfe
Hand Arendsl Harrison Sale LLC
Ernest and Jane Bulwinkle
Burt and Lee Odom
George and Jane Hieronymus
Joe Gilliland
Ferd and Sue Zundel
Wes and Amy Pipes
William and Gwen Roedder
Goodman Ledyard
Jim and Nancy Adams
Cort and Susan Schlichting
Alan and Marilyn Michel
Andy and Mary Lena Harper
William and Lisa McDonough
Ann Bedsole
Neil and Stephanie White
Sister Adams
Tay and Lynn Morrisette
Louis and Moren Braswell
Margaret Watson
Hal and Lynne Daugherty
Ann Magee A.J. and Lil Bowab
E. and Nancy Sledge
Mitch and Sally Cobb

**Church Calendar
SEPTEMBER 2018**

3	Church Office closed (Labor Day)
4	Committees
5	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
9	Rally Day (Breakfast snack)
11	Breakfast Bible Study – 7:00 am
12	PW Circles
15	Yeoman Work Day
16	Communion Officer Training – 9:00 am
17	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 am
18	Session – 6:00 pm Diaconate 7:00 pm
23	Officer Training – 9:00 am
25	Prayer Shawl – 10:00 am
30	Officer Training 9:00 am



**We Share
in Sorrow.**

The prayers and sympathy
of the congregation are
with Molly Lankford in the
death of her Husband, Alex.

Statement as of June 2018	
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$886,720
Year to date received	453,771
Other receipts	18,277
Total Receipts	\$472,048
Benevolences	31,004
Salaries and services	319,336
Programs	20,700
Office expenses	14,818
General & plant services	121,886
Other	15,970
Total Expenses	\$523,714
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	-\$51,666



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mobile, AL



Cast off for Rally Day!
Sunday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.

2018 Time & Talent Commitment

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____



*"To Glorify God and Make Disciples
Who Witness and Serve"*

In gratitude for God's gift of grace, I/we prayerfully make this commitment to my Church family:

GLORIFYING GOD:

- ☐ to be faithful and intentional in my worship attendance
- ☐ to deepen my relationship with God through prayer and study
- ☐ to lead in worship as liturgist, usher, beadle, crucifer, children's message, sound team, adult choir, children's choirs, handbell choir, instrumentalist - **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to beautify our worship space and grounds through a monthly Yeomen Work Day, as a member of the Sanctuary Guild, or donating flowers (preferred date: _____) - **(Circle all that apply)**

MAKING DISCIPLES:

- ☐ to participate in a new class or group, such as Sunday School, mid-week Bible studies, Presbyterian Women, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult Bible Study, Quilters, Painting group- **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to serve as a teacher or mentor in my church family through Sunday School for children, youth, or adults, youth advisor, or Children's Church leader- **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to assist with setting up and putting on church-wide events such as Vacation Bible School, Trunk-or-Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, receptions, or 75th Anniversary events - **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to provide a meal for our Youth/Young Adult groups or our Campus Ministry group, to donate food for church events or funeral receptions - **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to use my gifts in other ways to serve, such as: _____

WITNESSING:

- ☐ to reach out to our members who are in need through delivering flowers, home communion, helping with rides, Stephen Ministry, making meals, or sending cards - **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to serve as a New Member Shepherd welcoming new people into our church family, gathering attendance sheets, and checking on members not at church- **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to help promote our church family through photography, social media, or the website
- ☐ to continue serving in a meaningful role in the church family such as: _____

SERVING:

- ☐ to serve the needs of children in our Mobile community either as a Big Brother/Big Sister, volunteer for our Partner in Education (Mary B. Austin Elementary), or support the Backpack for Kids feeding program- **(Circle all that apply)**
- ☐ to attend a mission trip to the Alabama Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega or to Guatemala with our Presbytery partnership
- ☐ to try something new in the life of the church that I have never participated in before,
such as: _____