

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian
Church

Vol. 65

No. 4

April 2009

From the Pastor's Desk...

At the heart of the Christian story is that on Easter God brought the greatest good out of the worst evil ever committed. And at the center of Christian faith is the awareness that God continues to do so.

Francis of Assisi was a Christian who remembered every day that the Cross was the reason for his salvation, and that Easter was the assurance that even death does not have the final word. Daily Francis would sit or stand or lie in front of a cross. There were times when he fell into ecstasy before an image of the crucified Jesus. As Brennan Manning reminds us, "From his conversion until his death, Francis was preoccupied in both mind and heart with Jesus Christ crucified...the Cross was the source of his joy...Like a man obsessed, Francis was aglow with one thought and his heart aflame with one desire – to know Christ crucified."

Certainly, there would be no Easter, no resurrection without the death on Calvary's Cross. Therefore, like Francis of Assisi, let us not move too quickly from the Cross to the glory of Easter. With what remains of Lent and Holy Week, let us ponder the love that was given to us by the crucified Son of God. Let us fix our eyes on Him and pray as did Francis, "We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, and we praise You, because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world."

If that can be our prayer, then Easter morning will be our greatest joy.

In His love,
Norman



**I am the resurrection
and the life**

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Mark 16: 9-11

Molly's Musings

Uncertain Times, Certain God

It's hard to watch or read any news and dispute that these are uncertain times. From the economic distress of the global economy to international unrest to increasing violence, crime, and injustice on every front, it is a challenge not to fret about the future. Our politicians seem even more incapable of making decisions of integrity that might actually make a positive impact on the obstacles we are facing. Has the moral fortitude America once enjoyed completely vanished? Oh, it's easy to be a naysayer in light of the times, but I believe it's an unbiblical choice.

This past week, I had the opportunity to study Numbers 13 and 14 in my weekly Bible study, and the lessons I received have convicted me about the way I perceive the current events. In case you haven't read these chapters lately, let me briefly recap their content.

In Numbers, chapter 13, the Israelites are poised to enter and take possession of the land God had promised to give them since the days of Abraham. God had commanded them to go up and take the land, but the Israelites doubted. God allowed them to send 12 spies (one from each tribe) into the land to scout it out (i.e. what where the people like, how well fortified the cities were, what was the bounty, etc). All 12 spies returned in agreement about one thing: the land was good. Tragically, however, 10 of the 12 doubted the Israelites had the strength or ability to conquer the people and take the land. "We can't attack those people, they are stronger than we are. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." they said. Only two men differed in opinion – Joshua and Caleb. They responded, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." Caleb even pleaded, "If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into the land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord."

No doubt these were uncertain times for the Israelites, but there was a choice to be made. Ten men chose to focus on the uncertainty that was ahead and their own limitations and the result was they felt like grasshoppers. The other two chose to have faith instead of unbelief.

I love that back in Genesis, when God first promised the land to Abraham, He said, "Know for certain that your descendants..." and then he went on to outline the promise. Do you see that? Do you read it with as much exhilaration as I do? You see God's plan, will, and promises ARE for certain. I love, too, that the certainty of who He is and what He will do is not based on whether or not we believe Him. The Promised Land was a sure thing. God had already made that decision. Unfortunately for His people, because of their unbelief, they were delayed in receiving the blessing. I wonder how often in my own life the same truth has been applicable. When and where have God's blessings been delayed because of my unbelief?

I don't know about you, but I want to stand with Caleb and Joshua. In light of the uncertainty on the horizon, I want to say to my friends and my family, "We should go up and take possession of the land." There is a Promised Land for us to claim right now and it is the life of joy, peace, and security despite earthly circumstances.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

When I am tempted to fret, these are the promises I'm going to choose to believe:

Matthew 6:31-33

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I may be a grasshopper, but I can face the future knowing that even in uncertain times, God and His word are not.

In Christ,
Molly

Holy Week Services

Nursery provided for all services

Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Sermon by The Reverend Dr. Mark C. Mueller



Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

Sermon by The Reverend Dr. Norman H. McCrummen III



Good Friday

Good Friday, 12:00 noon

Sermon by Dr. Mueller

Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

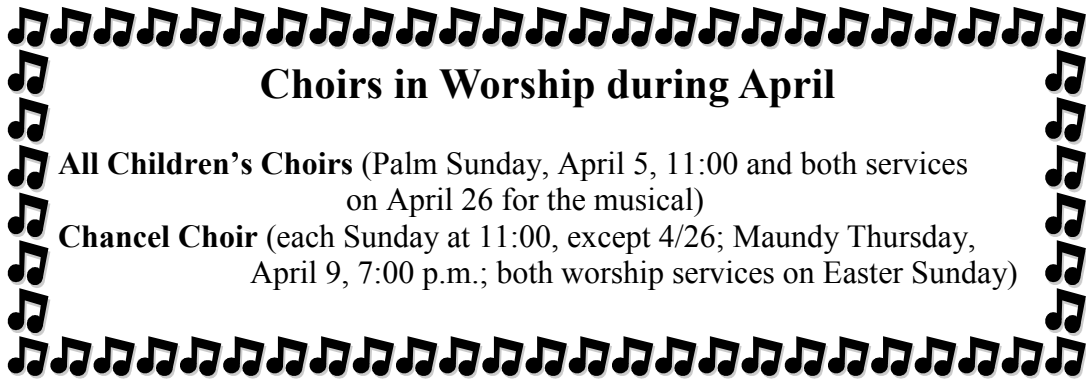
Sermon by Dr. McCrummen

Easter Music by Chancel Choir, Organ, and Brass Quartet



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing gives us the opportunity to share God's gift with people in need. We ask your prayers for this annual offering which will take place on Palm Sunday and Easter. These gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, self-development, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Special envelopes will be in the pews.



Choirs in Worship during April

All Children's Choirs (Palm Sunday, April 5, 11:00 and both services on April 26 for the musical)

Chancel Choir (each Sunday at 11:00, except 4/26; Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.; both worship services on Easter Sunday)

Are We There Yet? The Story of Moses and the Exodus

A Musical by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote



Presented by our Children's Choirs
In our Worship Services on April 26

The Concert Choir of Mobile's Singing Children (Susan Hoitt, Director)



Will Present Music during our 11:00 am Worship Service
On May 17

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, April 8 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Janie Sims (7051 Stonebridge Ct.)
- #2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bullard Building then go to the Mulherin Home for an Easter Egg Hunt. (Please bring 2 dozen stuffed eggs)
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor



**Makes plans for the Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference
on July 21 – 24 in Starkville.**

Christmas Cards

Is it too early to start thinking of Christmas? Not if you'd like to order cards AND help out a worthy cause. The Presbyterian Children's Home in Talladega has for the past several years produced Christmas cards using the artwork by various of their children on the cover with a seasonal message on the inside. The cards are always attractive and serve as a source of fund raising.



For this next year, Christmas 2009, the Presbyterian Women propose to do a mass ordering for church members which will eliminate the cost of shipping & handling for each customer. Here is how to do it. Pick up an order blank either from one's Circle or from the women's bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Fill out the order (price is listed as well as a picture of the featured card). Turn the order blank and the money for the number of boxes at \$12/box into one's Circle leader or to Emily Watson, SHP PW moderator. The close out time for placing an order through our church's PW will be July 1. The boxes will be delivered to the church from the Children's Home sometime in September and will be disseminated through the Circles and by other means for those orders placed directly with Emily. Seasons' Greetings, everyone!



Our church is fortunate to have several excellent Stephen Ministers who are prepared to serve those who, for whatever reason, feel the need for a caring listener. Contact Margaret Miller at 344-3937 for more information.

From the Stewardship Committee

I attended a retreat this past weekend (March 6-8) with about 450 other men from all over the country. A great number of them were from the greater New York City area and a high percentage of them in the financial industry. As you can well imagine, there were many who have experienced severe financial losses as well as job loss or uncertainty.

One fellow, on the final evening of the weekend, gave a testimonial to the group. He shared how 4 years ago at the same retreat he turned his life over to Jesus and since that time he has grown tremendously in his faith. He also shared that even though he had lost a great deal of money this year he was happier and more at peace than he had ever been. We were all uplifted by his remarks.

Later in his final talk, Tim Keller, the keynote speaker, mentioned the testimonial. He went on to say although the testimony was great and we were right to give it the response we gave it, it is basic Christianity. It is a great testimony because it is so quintessentially the center of Christian experience. It is normal Christian living.

What, do you ask, does this have to do with stewardship? In this example, the man who gave his testimony was speaking about his happiness and peace after he had surrendered to God. Rick Warren says the most difficult thing for many people to surrender is their money. Many people have thought "I want to live for God but I also want to earn enough money to live comfortably and retire someday."

He goes on to say retirement is not the goal of a surrendered life, because it competes with God for the primary attention of our lives. In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and money", and in verse 21, He said, "Wherever your treasure is your heart will be also."

Yours in Him
Rick True

Library News

Lent is a time to change old habits and develop more spiritual behavior. In case you have sought to add to your prayer life, the library has added the following for you and or your family:

- (1) Joyce Rupp: *Praying Our Goodbyes* (learning how to set the past aside and move more confidently into the future);
- (2) Robert Webber, *The Book of Daily Prayer* (giving thought in prayer to the needs of all our days, using the lectionary format as a guide);
- (3) June Cotner, *Graces* (providing prayers and poems for every day meals and special occasions, helping the family add to "God is Great, God is Good").



What is the Member Involvement Committee?

Our group serves several purposes in order to glorify God and serve our church. The following is a list of the different areas of our committee:

New Members

We place sponsors with our new members, and we provide a lunch or reception welcoming them once or twice a year.

New Babies

We are in charge of the rose on the communion table to acknowledge the birth of a new baby in our church. The committee also provides meals to the family.

Family Fun Night

We plan one or two nights per year to fellowship with other families of the church. This year we are planning a summer swim party.

Young and the Rest of Us

next event: On Dog River at the home of Amy Morris, Saturday, May 2, 4:00

This group of adults gets together a few times a year to fellowship outside of the church with other members. Some activities have included: karaoke, bowling, and grilling out.

Girl's Night Out (GNO)

next event: Dinner on the Bay at the Baymiller's, Thursday, April 23, 6:00

This social group of adult women meets at different locations (i.e., restaurants, homes, and an art studio) every other month. Also, we're planning a women's beach retreat for this summer.

Bereavement Subcommittee

These people are available to help when we have a funeral at our church. Depending on the requests of the family, this group may provide all of the food for the reception following the funeral or simply set up tables and serve refreshments.

Meals for the Infirm

We have a subcommittee, which is available to take meals to our members who are sick (whose names are written on the white board) and/or their families.

Supper Clubs

Members who have expressed an interest are organized into supper clubs (about 12 per group) once a year. It is up to each supper club to plan when and where they will meet.

Stephen Ministry

This program prepares volunteers to be nonjudgmental listeners to people of all ages and lifestyles who need help with a certain problem or situation.

If you would like more information, feel free to call any of our members:

Co-chairs: Cassie Steele & Meagher Whigham

Nancy Adams, Marcia Autterson, Edith Cox, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Lisa Marston, Julie McLeod, Margaret Miller, Margaret Mowry, Emily Watson, Ann Weinacker

Service Committee

Family Promise

Family Promise, one of the programs of Interfaith Hospitality Network, has been described as “Love in action”. It began its work in South Alabama in 2003 when churches welcomed their first homeless families as guests. Eighteen churches are now members of the network and others provide additional support.

The network has offices and a day care center at Central Presbyterian Church. The staff includes a full time director and case manager and three part-time employees. Homeless families are the most motivated to find stable housing, and eighty percent of the guests do so.

Guests arrive each day at about 5:30 pm. A washer and dryer are available. The next morning at 7 am guests are provided breakfast and a bag lunch. Because the center provides a home address, children can be enrolled in school, and parents have an address for job applications. The program allows families to stay together rather than going to separate shelters for men, women and children.

Our church supports Family Promise financially and by providing special treats for residents on holidays. Family Promise is planning a special fundraiser this Spring, “Dancing with the Clergy”. Details will be forthcoming.

ON THE WEB: www.familypromise.org

AGENCY NEEDS

Penelope’s Closet.....Books, Plastic Hangers, Children’s Clothes
(Donation Bin in Bullard Building)

Victory Health.....Toilet paper, copy paper, paper towels, stamps
(Donation Bin in Bullard Building)

Food Bank.....Canned fruit and vegetables
(Donation Bin in Main Building)

Healthcare for Homeless...Toiletries (Kleenex, toothpaste, combs, deodorant)
(To make donations: call Hilda Gewin 342-5604)

Please note Calendar of Events on the next page.

(Continued on page 9)

To harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator.

– Sealth (Chief Seattle)

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and an
Easter bunny chase with Ti Amo
and Al E. Cat.



(Service Committee—Continued from page 8)



Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 11 | Habitat Singles Build |
| April 12 | Easter Lilies Delivered after Easter Service. |
| May 9 | Habitat Singles Build |

Educational Outreach Committee

The Educational Outreach Committee would like to remind all church members and friends that we are collecting Brunos green receipts, Campbell soup labels and Box Tops for Education (found on all General Mills products) for our Partner in Education, Mary B. Austin School. You may place items in the envelopes hanging on our bulletin board near the water fountain in the fellowship hallway. Also if you are interested in volunteering for one of our sponsored programs (English as a Second Language, Just 4, and Mary B. Austin) please contact Kathy Hamilton.



Welcome to our new members:

Lynn Wharton
2274 Moss Creek Court
Mobile, AL 36695
753-7809

Trey and Megan Lang
308 Ridge Lawn Drive W.
Mobile, AL 36608
281-6474



Welcome to Our
Congregation

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 5 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a family lunch and Easter Egg Hunt in the Bullard Building for families with children 5th grade and below. Please call the church office or use the tear-off in the bulletin for reservations. If anyone is interested in helping with the Easter Egg Hunt and lunch/or sharing an Easter story with our children during this time, please call Kelley Lamberth (343-5733).

Attention Graduates

Please call the church office if you have a young person in your family who will be graduating from high school, college or graduate school this spring. Our high school graduates will be recognized in worship on Youth Sunday, May 3.

Recycle

Baker High will be accepting recycled materials in West Mobile on the last Saturday of each month. Residents should bring appropriate items between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Acceptable goods are plastic beverage containers (no lids or caps), aluminum beverage cans, steel or tin cans, glass, cardboard and papers.

First Thursday Lunch

Egypt is such a part of Old Testament readings. Our guest speaker for April 2, will be Nora Dawood, a new SHPC member and a native of Egypt. She will tell us about living a Christian life in a Muslim society before coming to America. How fortunate we are to have her insight on her faith and that her family is now part of our church family.

Come early for coffee and chat. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m.; cost is \$6.00. Remember to call the office to reserve a seat for yourself and a friend or neighbor. Need a ride – call Janie Sims – 340-6534.

Thanks for donating

Thanks to all who donated blood on March 8. We collected 21 units of blood.

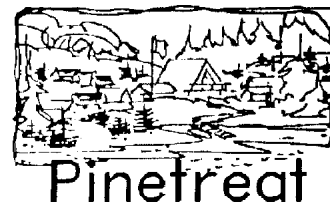
I find John's account of the resurrection most moving and evocative . . . because it centers on the story of how a wounded person sees the living Christ. In my experience at least, it is in our pain that we most often meet the Messiah.

– Ralph Milton

Camp Pinetreat Summer Schedule

"Love to Serve!"

June 21-26	Night Owls I	(7th - 9th)
June 28 - July 3	Teen Leadership	(10th - 11th)
July 1 - 3	Footsteps	(1st - 3rd)
July 8-10	Kindermusik Camp	(NEW!)
July 12 - 17	Journey 1	(4th - 6th)
July 19 - 24	Journey 2	(4th - 6th)
July 26 - 31	Night Owls II	(7th - 9th)



Committees and Chairs: 2009

Personnel	Jo Chateau
Global Missions	Jim Adams
Plant Services	Peter Pearce, Chair; Robert Weaver, Co-chair
Worship/Ushers	Amy Walton/Bruce Maynard
Christian Education	Judy Stout
Witness	Amy Pipes
Member Involvement	Meagher Whigham, Chair; Cassie Steele, Co-chair
Service	Chris Pennington
Hospitality	Jeff Stoll
Children's Services & Activities	Jodi Ivey and Kelley Lambert
Senior Outreach	Ann Magee and Laura Hastings
Educational Outreach	Kathy Hamilton
Youth	George Barton
Religious Arts	Harvie Jordan
Budget & Finance	Bobby Crow
Stewardship	Rick True



We rejoice with Betty Minto in the birth of a great grandson, Brayden Hudson, on March 16. Parents are Joey and Terri Minto Hudson.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Pat Scheu
Paul Macon
Lib Bullard
John B. Waterman II

From the following:

Smith, Dukes, Buckalew, L.L.P.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Milstead
Elizabeth Courtney
Missy & Don Foose
Mr. & Mrs. Ray H. Miller, III
Hilary Cabaniss
Elsie & Broox Holmes

Margaret Luce
Bill & Laura Gewin
Sizy & Bob Riley
Sue & Sonny Dunaway
Alice & Herndon Inge
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Peebles III
Jewel H. Adams-Heblon
Jane & Louis Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Winthrop Hallett
Faculty & Administration of UMS-Wright
Preparatory School
Murray Thames
Raymond and Jan Swetenburg
Mike & Fay Phillips
Lynne Wakefield

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

- 5 *Passion/Palm Sunday*
(Holy Week begins)
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16;
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a;
Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
- 12 *Easter/Resurrection of the Lord*
Act 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9;
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
- 19 *2nd Sunday of Easter*
Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31
- 26 *3rd Sunday of Easter*
Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48



April 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Church Calendar

April 2009

- 1 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Lenten Noon Service – Pam Hanes, speaker
Bible Study and Supper – 5:45 p.m.
- 2 First Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 5 Easter Egg Hunt and lunch – following 11:00 a.m. service
- 8 Circles
- 9 Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Good Friday Noon Service
- 13 Church office closed
- 14 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Session – 7:00 p.m.



When Is Easter?

Every year the date of Easter changes. The main reason is that unlike holidays which are tied to specific dates, Easter always falls on a Sunday. Also, because the events of Jesus' death and resurrection occurred in the context of the Jewish Passover festival (remember, Jesus and the disciples were Jewish), the date follows the Jewish pattern of being tied to the lunar calendar.

Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21, the vernal equinox, or the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus, Easter can fall anywhere in between March 22 and April 25.

To add to the confusion, Eastern churches (such as Russian and Greek Orthodox) use a slightly different calendar, and their Easter is about two weeks after the date celebrated by Western churches.

Several proposals have been raised throughout history to arrive at a fixed date, but none of them have taken off. The most recent occurred in 2001 when Eastern and Western dates coincided for the first time in centuries.

Proposals have included fixing the date on the second Sunday in April, or agreeing always to have seven Sundays in the Season after the Epiphany. Others have proposed a fixed calendar date of April 9, believed to have been the actual date of the original resurrection, but such a date would mean that Easter would seldom land on a Sunday. None of these proposals have ever been taken very seriously.

There is one major advantage to having the date change each year. As Christians we are called to follow Jesus and that often means being out of step with the rest of the world. When we follow a calendar that is just a little out of step it reminds us of the call to challenge the direction the world may be going. The floating date of Easter can help us remember and celebrate this.

Earth Day Reflections

Often on Earth Day (April 22) people intone powerful words of Sealth, chief of the Suquamish nation in northwestern Washington state. More commonly known in modern times as Chief Seattle, the story tells that he was responding to an offer from the United States president to buy the Suquamish people's land.

Historians question whether Sealth ever spoke any words like these, or wrote a letter in such flowery English, a language he did not speak. The letter also makes reference to buffalo and steam locomotives, two things that Sealth would never have seen.

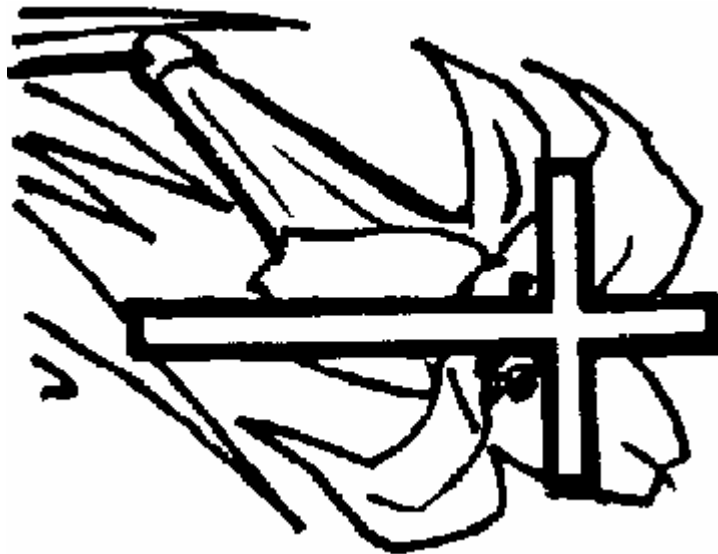
However the historic facts are perhaps less important than the power in these words that capture a strong sense of the values of the indigenous peoples of America, and other places as well. Part of the speech and letter read:

Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people.

The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. We did not weave the web of life, but are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608
Phone: 251-342-1550
www.shpc.us
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1252
Mobile, AL**



*April
Newsletter*