

# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 65, Number 6, August, 2009

## From the Pastor...

You'll be very pleased to know that gifts totaling over \$425,000.00 have been given (unsolicited) to the Memorial Chapel Fund. What's more, a very fine German tracher pipe organ has also been donated.

The exterior and interior drawings have been completed as have the "unseen" engineering requirements. Frank Dagley has played a big and generous role in the latter, and Nick Holmes III and his father have superbly addressed the architectural details. The overall architecture is classical in a restrained Greek revival genre, which is a perfect complement to the architecture of the sanctuary, inside and out.

Very soon the congregation will have the opportunity to contribute toward the chapel's construction. Most of the gifts by far have been made in memory of the donors' loved ones or friends. I suspect that will continue to be true.

There will be a couple of meetings in August after Sunday worship to view the drawings and to ask questions. There are two depictions which you can now see: one in the hall behind the sanctuary, and a painting done by a friend of Frank Dagley's which is in the Fellowship Hall.

The chapel will meet a tremendous need for a smaller place for memorial services and weddings, as well as a place for mid-week services and Sunday vespers. It will, of course, always be a place for private prayer and meditation.

The congregation's generosity has proven a clear response to the need for a chapel, and I believe the remainder of the congregation will be eager to respond just as generously. Let us remember that this chapel, though a memorial to those who have preceded us, is first and foremost a house of God for the worship of God. I can think of no reason as wonderful to build any kind of structure than to build for the glory and worship of our Creator and Savior.

May it be that in all we do God will be exalted.

In His love,

Norman 



## Church Calendar August 2009

2	Lord's Supper
4	Committees
6	Officer Training – 7:00 p.m.
11	Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
13	CE Meeting – 6:00 p.m. Officer Training – 7:00 p.m.
17	Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
18	Session – 7:00 p.m.
20	Officer Training – 7:00 p.m.
27	Officer Training – 7:00 p.m.



## Regular Worship Schedule Resumes

Sunday, September 13

The summer schedule will continue through Sunday, September 6. We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, September 13.

**Worship**  
**8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**  
**Christian Education classes**  
**9:30 a.m.**

# Molly's Musings

## The Remnant

It hit me like a ton of bricks, and I haven't stopped thinking about it. Dr. John Fowler, a missionary to Turkey, addressed the joint CE class that had gathered in Fellowship Hall on July 12<sup>th</sup>. "It's so good to see all of you, the remnant of God's people, gathered here today." The remnant? I sat there with the ton of bricks in my lap and thought about the implications of such an address. The remnant? Really? Is the church really dying?

Why am I shocked? After all, a few weeks back Dr. McCrummen warned in a sermon that Christianity was all but dead in Europe and America is not far behind. Jesus even alluded to it when speaking of the end times in Matthew 24:13, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." What is it? Are we really there?

A.W. Tozer said in his book, *The Pursuit of God*, "A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it possible to accept Christ without forsaking the world." I stopped for a minute after reading that phrase to scan my memory book of experience. Is this really true? I think of all the people I've had contact with over the years, and I realize, "Shoot. It's true of me." Have I really lived like such American, digesting only the Gospel of prosperity and forgotten there was a cost? Is my faith just lukewarm? Has my love grown cold?



I don't know about you, but the thought that we, the church of Jesus Christ, have become (or are becoming) a mere remnant stirs something so deep inside my soul. It makes me want to get up out of my chair, out of this office, and do something. It compels me to action. I can hardly sit still because today he has given me a picture of where we're headed. Ah yes, passion has returned and with renewed commitment, I want to live radically for Jesus even if I must forsake the world...especially if I have to forsake the world.

My friends, I have no doubt that God is sovereign, that He has a plan, and that He is compelling His children to live radical lives – lives of passion, lives of action. Let's leave it behind, the world that is, and claim the life He has called us to. I can't think of anything more exciting or scary, but the alternative is a love grown cold.

Today, this remnant is forsaking the world. Won't you join me?

Love to my body of Christ,

*Molly*

## Library Roundup

After a summer of reading for pleasure ([The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#); No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency novel; and [Three Cups of Tea](#), we are now back to more serious reading with Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and new CE classes approaching. The following will better prepare our hearts and minds for the fall studies focus:

[Calvin: for the Armchair Theologian](#); [John Calvin a Biography](#); [Feasting on the Word](#), first of a 12 part series featuring in depth studies of the lectionary assignment; [The Re-forming Tradition](#); [Worship: Guides to the Reformed Tradition](#); [Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers](#); [Before the Amen](#), [Creative Resources for Worship](#).

TEACHERS AND CLASS LEADERS: There's always something new to help your class and your students. Ask the library staff for suggestions.

## Deacons and Elders Elected

The following elders and deacons were recently elected by the congregation to the Class of 2012:

**Elders:** Joe Hastings, Mike Hofto, Rita Langus, Bill Layfield, Harriet Nihart, Basil Smith, Rick True, Robert Weaver

**Deacons:** Linn Ayers, Dean Brown, Nora Dawood, Hilda Gewin, Rita Hall, George Hamilton, Steve Hunt, Jeff Ivey, Ryan Mahtani, Pam Phillips, Wes Pipes, Bryan Reed, Naomi Turner, Carolyn Wikle

**Trustee:** Bill Oppenheimer

**Elder Emeritus:** Walne Donald



The Lord's Supper will be served on August 2.

## Music Notes

from Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

# Sing and Play in a New Season!

OUR NEW MUSICAL SEASON WILL BEGIN SOON and we are eager to invite all persons to explore how they might get involved in music ministries. Participating in music at our church provides unique opportunities that cannot be duplicated elsewhere, simply because they are rooted not only in the Christian faith, but in the traditions and theology of our own church. You are invited to investigate the opportunities at SHPC in music!



**Chancel Choir** begins its new season with rehearsal on Wednesday night, August 12, at 7 pm in the choir room. Advanced high school singers through adults who can carry a tune and can learn harmony parts are welcome. Persons who have sung in choirs or played in instrumental groups, or who have studied a musical instrument, will be most comfortable in the group.

*Please contact Randy Sheets.*

Auditions for **Mobile's Singing Children** (consisting of four community choirs, based at SHPC) are being held now for children from grade 2 through high school. *Contact Susan Hoitt at the church.*

Choirs for **Children and Youth** begin on Sunday afternoon, September 13. These are singing and ringing groups for children who have turned 4 by Sept. 1, through grade 12. *Contact Randy Sheets.*

**Spring Hill Ringers.** An auditioned group of advanced youth and adults who practice handbells on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 9. Positions are open. *Contact Randy Sheets.*

To the Congregation of  
Spring Hill Presbyterian Church:

Thank you for accepting Stephen Ministry and allowing us to be your friend. Without you we would not be able to embrace each other with God's love.

It is time once again to train a new class of Stephen Ministers. Our goal is to start a new class this fall. Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered, compassionate, trustworthy, skilled ministry and I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider this calling for you. We have a great need for men, as well as women. A diversified class is a great asset. It is a wonderful experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, I'm always glad to talk about Stephen Ministry.

God bless us all.

Margaret Miller



## *Thank You For Your Loving Kindness*

On behalf of the family, Andy Anderson thanks all who prayed for his wife, Becky, and were so attentive during her long illness, and for the love you showed at the time of her death.



Memorials have been  
received for the following:

*Ruth Diehl Rhodes  
William Holdefer  
Becky Anderson  
Katherine Caine  
John B. Waterman II  
Mavis Widney Shreve*

From the following:

*Jo Chateau  
Alex & Molly Lankford  
Martha Entrekjin  
Joe & Laura Hastings  
Rick & Julie True  
Sue & Billy McLean  
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Thomas  
Sara Long  
Elizabeth Lyon  
Sharon & Eddie McDonough*

From the Service Committee...

## VICTORY HEALTH PARTNERS

We are privileged as a Church to support among our various charitable organizations a group named Victory Health Partners. It was founded by Dr. Bill Lightfoot in January of 2003, for the specific purpose of providing primary health care to local residents without health insurance. The story of how Dr. Lightfoot was led by God to form Victory Health Partners is truly inspiring, and what began as a mere thought on a plane ride in 1997 has become a truly wonderful success story today.

While the majority of its patients are located within Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Victory Health currently serves patients within 16 counties in Alabama, and five counties in Florida and Mississippi. Patients must qualify for services based on income and family size. The type of care provided by Victory Health Partners ranges from general adult primary medical care, to dental care, basic X-rays and EKG's, wound care, and other kinds of basic health care. Victory Health also maintains various clinics for specialty services, including a Pulmonary Clinic, Wound Care Clinic, and an Incontinence Clinic. Victory Health also provides psychiatric counseling, diabetes education, and dispenses over \$1 million in medications each year through its Medication Dispensary program. Over 150 local physicians provide voluntary physician service to Victory Health, and the volunteers who serve provided over 7,000 hours in volunteer service in 2008.

Victory Health Partners is funded 100% by private contributions, including contributions from the United Way, local foundations, churches, individuals and corporations. It receives no federal funding for its services.

Spring Hill Presbyterian donates to Victory Health Partners through our Service Committee, but as you can imagine the needs of Victory Health are always great given the nature of its services.

You will find a "Master Needs List" for Victory Health Partners posted in the main church building on the Service Committee bulletin board. Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful, and very necessary, charitable organization, to help it provide for those among us who have "slipped through the cracks" of our healthcare system. If you would like to learn more about Victory Health Partners, please visit their website at [www.victoryhealth.org](http://www.victoryhealth.org)

God Bless!

## Penelope House

Penelope House is in need of children's clothing and household items – anything to equip an apartment. Please place items in the barrel located in the Bullard Building. Thank you for your generosity.

## Illustrating the Power of Grace

The painting of our new chapel which is now being displayed in the Fellowship Hall was done by Bill O'Brien. Bill, age 52 and a former employee of Frank Dagley's, is incarcerated in the Alabama State prison in Springville. While on parole for a previous felony, Bill was convicted of vehicular homicide and will not be eligible for parole until 2-17. Due to many years of drug and alcohol abuse he is in extremely poor health and will probably die in prison. His only family is a sister who does not communicate with him. That's the bad news. The good news is that Bill, through a prison ministry and his faith in Jesus Christ, has become a Christian and hopes to continue painting with an emphasis on "biblical subjects". If you would like to thank Bill for the painting and encourage him in his future endeavors, his mailing address is:

William O'Brien #255947  
Infirmery -07  
100 St. Clair Road  
Springville, AL 35146

## Chapel Update

After a great deal of review and work the plans and specifications for the chapel are complete. They have been submitted to the City of Mobile for compliance review and permit application. Barring any unforeseen obstacles we should have a building permit sometime this month. At that point we will be ready to begin construction which will take approximately six to nine months.

To date we have received more than \$425,000 in unsolicited gifts. We also have a fabulous organ fully paid for. Soon we will have a formal request for gifts and pledges for the remainder of the funds. We will also schedule a few meetings so you will be able to view the plans and ask any questions you may have.

In the meantime if you have any questions feel free to call me.

Rick True, Chair  
Chapel Committee



**Welcome new members!**

**Shirley Ondrick**

3570 Eric Drive  
Semmes, AL 36575  
645-7453

**Nancy Watts**

10705 Hunters Court W.  
Mobile, AL 36695  
634-4954

**Trey and Jodi Morvant**

9260 Burnt Tree Drive  
Mobile, AL 36695  
607-9362

**Marguerite (Peggy) and Troy Carter**

217 Berwyn Dr. West #107  
Mobile, AL 36608  
345-9393

**Rick & Karen Spaulding**

7546 Willow Circle  
Mobile, AL 36695  
634-1442

**Tamara Waninger**

5350 Ruger Court  
Theodore, AL 36582  
(601) 940-3359

**Albert (Torch) Hollingsworth**

3708 Calderwood Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36608  
344-9150

**Charlie and Sandy Richards**

2321 Pavan Drive  
Mobile, AL 36693  
753-6076

**Current Scriptures Class Schedule**

- 8/2/09 1 Peter 5:8 (Alert)
- 8/9/09 Ephesians 6:13-15 (Armor)
- 8/16/09 Ephesians 6:16-17 (Armor)
- 8/23/09 Ephesians 6:18 (Armor)
- 8/30/09 James 4:7 (Resist)
- 9/6/09 Matthew 6:33



# "Honor the Lord with your Wealth"

Through the end of June the total gifts received to date is \$588,092. This total represents \$526,608 in pledges and \$53,217 in nonpledged offerings. The pledges amount received is 45.87% of our budget for 2009 and 49.62% of the nonpledged offering budget. As you can see through the first half of the year, we are a little under 50% of our budget.

The Bible tell us in Proverbs 3:9 *"Honor the Lord with your wealth and the best part of everything you produce."* The Lord has blessed us all greatly in many different ways. Surely we can all find ways to honor Him not only with our riches but also with our time and the talents He has given us. In these tough times we don't have to look far to find those in need.

We are all privileged to be members of a church that gives more than 25% of its pledges to benevolences. That shows our church is a loving church. The Bible says in II Corinthians 8:7-8 *"Just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in the grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love."* I think it is safe to say that Spring Hill Presbyterian passes that test.

Yours in Him,  
Rick True

## Furnishing the Lord's House

**The Furnishings Committee** has been busy updating rooms in the Main Building as showcased by the recent renovation of the ladies restroom. Our project for this year is completing the renovation of the Conference Room.

We would like to remind the congregation that Memorial gifts to the church may be designated for a certain use. The Furnishings committee would appreciate any donations made to our committee.

### *We Share in Sorrow*

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Royce Ray in the death of his aunt, Mary Gray, on June 14; with Sara Bethaume in the death of her grandfather, Arnold Maurice Berthaume, on June 9; with Margaret Mowry in the death of her father, Bill Holdefer, on June 23 in Birmingham; with Andy Anderson in the death of his wife, Becky, on July 8; and with the family of Linda Hollingsworth, her husband Torch, her daughters, Corinne March and Hallie Croom, her sister, Jo Anne Dunnam, and her brother, Joe Bullard, on July 17.

# Reports, Schedules and Opportunities

WE REJOICE with Dick and Sherry Coats in the birth of a granddaughter, Sara Evelyn Holloway, on May 25 in Fairhope (Parents are Lynne and Gabe Holloway); with Ginny and Keener Thompson in the birth of a grandson, Nicholas Brent Davenport on May 29 in Birmingham (Parents are Sarah and Gabe Davenport)

WE REJOICE with Alice and Frank Vogtner in the marriage of their daughter, Katie, to Matthew Martin, on June 6.

## Lynn Wharton Receives Award of Excellence

Fourth Grade teacher Mrs. Lynn Wharton has been selected by the St. Paul's Episcopal School Foundation as the second recipient of the Dawson Faculty Excellence Award. Mrs. Wharton led a two-week workshop last summer for third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers to implement Foundations and Frameworks in their classrooms during the 08-09 school year. The program incorporates teaching vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, and critical thinking in methods that maximize the way the brain learns reading.

The Dawson Faculty Excellence Fund provides a monetary stipend annually to a deserving faculty member in recognition of teaching excellence. Spring Hill Presbyterian's Molly Wagner was the recipient in 2008.

*Way to go!*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Luncheon

It's time to look ahead on your calendars and to mark down the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in September (9/3/09) as the kick-off luncheon for the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Lunch Bunch. We meet monthly at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (come earlier for coffee and fellowship) to enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by your own ingenious and delightful chef-ess (or is it chef-ette?), Pat Stoll. A series of potential post lunch programs to satisfy the multi-interests and intrigue of our guests is falling into place. Cost is \$6/person; invite a friend, neighbor or fellow church member to share the time together. See you there!

## Got Photos/Stories?

We need 'content' for the newsletter and for the website. If you have photos of recent activities, meetings, classes, we'd love to share them as well as a short article or story about the event. Call the church office or email [mroot@usouthal.edu](mailto:mroot@usouthal.edu) for more information.

## LECTIONERY FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### AUGUST 2009

- 2 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
SAM 11:26-12:13A; EPH. 4:1-16  
JOHN 6:24-35
- 9 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
2 SAM. 18:5-9; 15,31-33; PS. 130;  
EPH. 4:23-5:2  
JOHN 6:35, 41-51
- 16 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
1 KINGS 2:10-12; 3:3-14; PS 111; EPH. 5:15-20  
JOHN 6:51-58
- 23 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
1 KINGS 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43; PS. 84  
EPH. 6:10-20; JOHN 6:56-69
- 30 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
S. OF SOL. 2:8-13; PS. 45:1-2, 6-9  
JAMES 1:17-27; MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Spring Hill Pres Supports Prichard Summer Golf Camp Held June 15 through July 8, 2009

The camp was limited to 32 boys and girls who came two mornings each week. The four teams took turns at driving, chipping, putting and having discussions about key words in life and in golf. Eight of the older (or experienced) kids played 9 holes of golf on the Highpointe Course on four days.

On the final day, team competitions were held and each camper wrote a letter to Tiger Woods – to be sent to his foundation. Mayor Ron Davis attended along with many parents and grandparents.

One of our campers who swung her first golf club last summer is participating in the Jimmy Green junior golf tour on many area courses this summer.

The nine adult leaders included four-year coaches Teddy Alvis (Coach Legs), former state representative Bill Clark and me (Coach Mac), plus T. J. Jackson, the USA ladies golf team coach, high school students Ryan Campbell and Hunter Alvis, Dr. Jerry Williams, retired USA professor and two members of the Gulf Coast Golf Association. Funds were provided by Prichard Housing Authority and GCCA.

Bobby McNeely

# Symbols

God provides food for all the animals. Here is a crossword puzzle of animals. Can you figure out what the animals are and fill in the names?

1 Across



4 Across



6 Across



8 Across



1 Down



2 Down



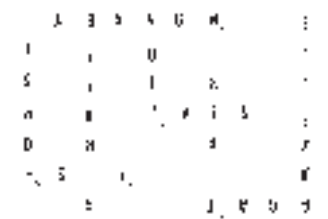
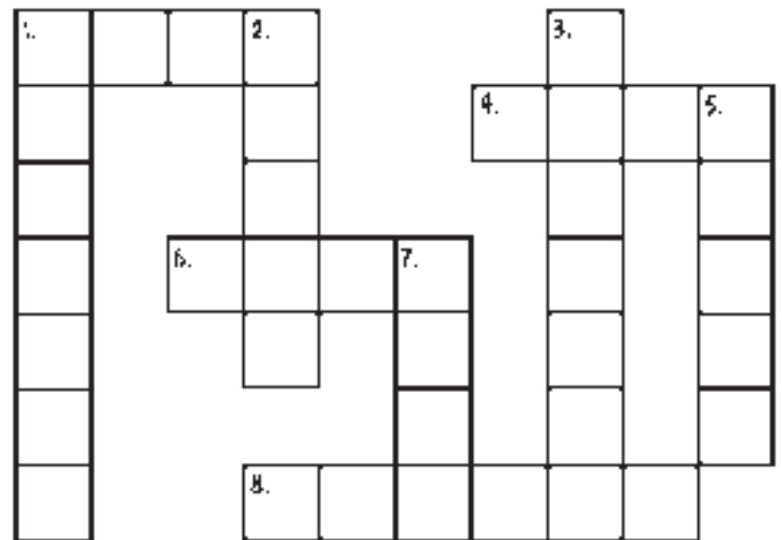
3 Down



5 Down

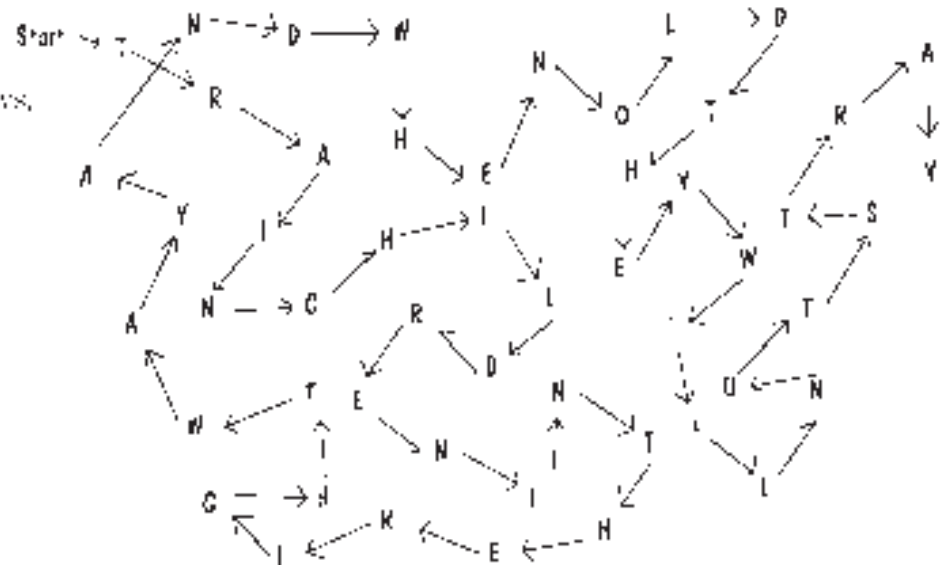


7 Down



# Hidden Message

Start with 1 and, following the arrows, write each letter in the blanks.



The Personnel Committee  
cordially invites you to a reception for  
Norman McCrummen  
on Sunday, August 2  
following the 10 o'clock worship service  
Please join us as we celebrate his  
10th Anniversary  
at Spring Hill Presbyterian

[www/shpc.us](http://www/shpc.us)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Springhill Presbyterian Church  
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