

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter. (The six Sundays that fall during the 40 days of Lent stretch the season out a little.) The date of Ash Wednesday is always determined by the date of Easter. This year, because Easter is so very early (March 23), Ash Wednesday falls on February 6.

An ancient tradition for this day is to burn palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday and to use these ashes to make the sign of the cross on the forehead or the back of the hand. This is a symbolic way of saying "I'm sorry," a tradition that began long ago. When people had done something wrong, they would cover themselves with ashes to show that they were sorry and wanted to change.

Sometimes the ashes are mixed with oil, which is a sign of healing and blessing. This reminds us that when we ask God for forgiveness, God helps us turn our lives around and start again.




The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, February 10, the first Sunday in Lent.

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From the Pastor...

 In our Green Hymnal Supplement is a truly great hymn by Charles Wesley, "And Can It Be that I Should Gain." It was written in 1739 when hymns, so rich in theology, were deeply instructive and comforting. The words of this particular hymn provide a meditation which I invite you to read and pray over when you are seated in the sanctuary waiting for a service to begin. It's number 1002. It's author points us to the stupendous price God paid through His Son that we may have forgiveness and everlasting life.

This Lenten season may prove just another introduction into spring, or it could very well be a turning point in your spiritual life. I can think of nothing outside the holy Scriptures that describe the love of God in Christ more beautifully than this Wesley hymn. Would you make it your Sunday morning meditation?

Here are three stanzas:

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me? Who caused His pain?
For me? Who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God,
Shouldst die for me? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God,
Shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above (so free, so infinite His grace!)
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God,
It found out me! 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me!

No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine.
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th' eternal throne and claim the cross
Through Christ my own.

May in this holy season we find renewal and peace in these sacred truths.

Yours in Christ,
Norman

Molly's Musings
"It's up to God...and YOU!"

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-20

At our recent Officers' Retreat, I shared what I believe to be God's vision for Christian Education in 2008. In Jesus' last words to His disciples in Matthew 28, He commanded them to GO and MAKE disciples. Over the last few months, I feel He has been saying the same thing to me, "Molly, through the ministry of Christian Education at Spring Hill Presbyterian, GO and MAKE disciples."

As I have thought and prayed and thought and prayed about this vision for Christian Education, I have had to answer a few key questions:

- What is a disciple of Jesus Christ? One that follows Jesus Christ
- How do you follow Jesus Christ? John 15:4, 10 gives me some insight, "**Remain** in me, and I will **remain** in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain** in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you **remain** in me."
"If you obey my commands, you will **remain** in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and **remain** in his love." To follow Jesus means to know and obey His word, to love what He loves, to bear His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. To follow Jesus means to love Him with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. To follow Jesus means to do as Jesus did – to love, minister to, and serve the outcast, the oppressed, the downtrodden and the forgotten. To follow Jesus, you must REMAIN in him – stay connected to the Vine through prayer, study of His word, meditation on His word, and through worship.
- How do we go about making disciples through Christian Education?

This is the most important question, and I feel the answer is two fold:

1. We make disciples by putting into place programs that transform – this is the challenge of the CE Committee.
2. We, as His disciples, commit to the transformation and sanctification process – this is the challenge of the congregation.

Over the past year, I have come to realize that any Christian Education program is only as strong as the congregation that supports it. A transformative, disciple-making CE program depends on two things: 1. dynamic, Spirit-filled volunteers to step out on faith and commit to teaching others the Word of God while encouraging them to follow Christ 2. a congregation that is hungry to know God.

As we go forth in 2008, it is my prayer that you, the congregation of SHPC, will share God's vision for Christian Education. I pray that the fruit of our labor in CE will be the transformation of lives into disciples for Jesus Christ.

In Him,
Molly

Mark's Remarks

When the Bottom Drops Out

Jacob frequently asked himself the question, "why me? Why does this happen to me Lord?" That question has been on the tip of many of our tongues. Jacob found himself asking this question after pouring his heart out to God in prayer, asking for the internal bleeding to stop so that doctors could perform surgery to save his sister, Ashley. Ashley was involved in a single car accident, suffering severe injuries one week before her college graduation. When Ashley was rushed to the hospital, doctors could not perform the life saving surgery due to the large amounts of internal bleeding. As many have done, Jacob turned against God in this time of sorrow and mourning.

However, this sad story does have an uplifting ending. Four months before Ashley's death, the real story takes place: Ashley became a Christian. For the first time in her life she finally "got it." Ashley grew up with a typical church background; however it never really sank in. She went off to college and lived the stereotypical college life, but it finally hit her that there was a power greater than she. After attending a Christian conference for college students, Ashley's roommate had the opportunity to share God's Word with Ashley, and explain how He has worked in her life. This was the first time in Ashley's life that Christianity was put in a way she really understood. Ashley saw the gleam of Christ in her roommate's eye and immediately knew that was what she wanted.

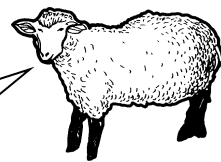
The beauty of this story is that the grave was not the end of Ashley's life. Because of Ashley's decision to give her life to Christ, she will rejoice and have life eternal. Jesus tells us in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Here it is before us, Jesus is saying we will have trouble: life-shaking, faith challenging, trouble. BUT, take heart! He has overcome the world. It is in faith-challenging instances such as Ashley's accident and death when Jacob turned from God that we need to cling to this scripture and have hope in the cross - the cross on which Jesus bore more pain and suffering than we will ever endure. Jesus clearly warns us that we will have trouble, however in the next statement, He also promises us hope: "take heart, I have overcome the world."

Global Missions

The Global Missions Committee Reports that over \$10,000 was given by our congregation in 2007 to support Heifer International. Our congregation has faithfully supported this program that gives animals to needy and underserved peoples around the world. These animals provide food, nourishment, labor, income and fertilizer to recipients of an animal. The offspring of these animals are also then provided to other families and the miracle continues.

We are blessed to serve God in this way. Thank you.

**Thank
ewe!**





Summer Trips Reminder

Sr. High Trip - Student Life Mission Camp - June 29 - July 3

Ruston, LA

Speaker, David Nasser

Worship Leader – Steve Fee

Jr. High Trip - Great Escape - July 21 – 25

Twin Lakes, MS

Speaker – Ben Glen

Worship Leader – Connor Byrd

Deposits of \$250 are due for both trips.

Please see Mark Coats if you are interested.

* Scholarship are available

Cell Phone Recycling

The youth of SHPC are recycling old cell phones. If you have any phones that you would like to donate, Please see Mark Coats.

Worship During Lent

Wednesdays at Noon

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6 with Holy Communion
Guest Speakers—each Wednesday, Feb. 13-March 12

First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 10. Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7:00 p.m. (March 19)

Good Friday Worship Service, March 20, 12:00 Noon

Music in Ministry

The Tale of the Three Trees

A Musical by Tom Long and Allen Pote
Presented by our Children's Choirs
Sunday, March 9 at 8:30 and 11:00

Recital by

The Organist of Coventry Cathedral, England
Alistair Reid



Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.



When was the last time you had a book you just couldn't put down and were sorry when you'd finished it?

The church library collection has neglected the young adult readers and is now planning to quickly change that.

In the next weeks, visit the library to examine the new additions for both male and female readers. Let the library staff know your favorites, or offer suggestions for other additions. Review check out procedures and be prepared to "curl up with a good book."

First Thursday Group STEP BACK IN TIME!

Please join The First Thursday Group for a Victorian Valentine Luncheon on February 14, 2008 at 11:45 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our special guest will be Jane Moser who will speak on quilts and antique fabrics. Please bring an object you treasure to share whether it is made of fabric or not! Everyone welcome - please make reservations by calling the church office. Cost is \$5.00. There will be a short business meeting to plan the rest of 2008.

Presbyterian Women's Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, February 6 at **10:00 a.m.**



Circles will meet on Wednesday, 13 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Clayton Pennington (4310 Marquette Drive)
- #2 at 9:30 a.m. at Carpe Diem. Childcare will be available at the church at 9:15 a.m.
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 27 for the PW Spring Gathering. It will be at Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Dothan. More information about this and making reservations will come soon.

Service Committee news

The Service Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped deliver poinsettias to our shut-ins and sick.

Joy Gift offering

The total received for the Joy Gift offering taken during Advent and Christmas season was \$2,918.00.



Thanks to Officers

The thanks of the congregation is expressed to the Officers in the outgoing class of 2006:

Elders: David Ayers, Dick Baymiller, Frank Dagley, Ruth Fitzgerald, Tod Heyman, Molly Wagner, Sidney Weinacker

Deacons: Ashley Brown, Sally Cobb, Lila Dexter, Bron Dixon, Brad Hoffman, Christopher Jones, Kym Sigler, Leslie Sweeney

Welcome to our new members:

Janet and Bill Hayes
105 Jordan Lane
Mobile, AL 36608
341-0611

John and Elissa Turner
3831 Outley Drive
Mobile AL 36693
662-7531



Welcome to Our
Congregation



Thank you for all your prayers and concerns during my brother "Sonny's" long illness. Thanks, also, for all your support and prayers as his life ended.

May God bless each of you for everything you did.

Lovingly in Christ!
Buck and Joelyne Trehern

"Have you ever tried to deny the wind on a blustery day, Nicodemus?" Jesus asked. "That would be pretty silly, wouldn't it? It's the same thing with trying to deny God's Spirit. Sadly, there are people who do it. It will be blowing all around them, trying to rejuvenate them, fill them with new life, and they'll try their darnedest to pretend that it isn't there."

– Donald Schmidt, *Bible Wonderings: Familiar Tales Retold*

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a romantic getaway with Ti Amo and Al E. Cat.

Email: Dan: desellers@earthlink.net
Laura: handbell@earthlink.net



BIRTHS



We rejoice with Tommy and Rhen Druhan in the birth of a daughter, Margaret Rhen Durham, on January 3. Grandparents are Mac & Ginger Otts; great grandfather is Dr. Mac Otts.



death shall
no longer
have
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Joelyne Trehern in the death of her brother, William (Sonny) Aron Stuart on December 3 in Pascagoula; with Becky Lord in the death of her father, Sherwood Harrison, on December 14 in Pascagoula; with Catherine Smith in the death of her husband, Hewitt, in December in Asheville, NC; and with the family of Norman Davis in his death on January 9.

Memorials

*Memorials have been received
for the following:*

Sammie Moore
Sammie and Burns Moore
Annie and B. C. Tanner
Joyce Hofto
Paul Henderson
Hewitt Smith, Jr.
Frances Curry
Lucille Spieth
William (Sonny) Stuart
Elizabeth Carson
Katherine Brinkley

From the following:

Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
Elloise O'Briant

Faye Cooke
Jimmy and Judy Greer
Joe and Laura Hastings
Roy and Sue Martino
Billy and Sue McLean
Torch and Linda Hollingsworth
Ruth Fitzgerald
John and Ann Greenwood
Huston and Emmie Carter
Joe B. Stuart
Janie Sims
Bill and Ruth Coats
Eunice Weeks
Sara Long
Jo Chateau
Bill and Marcy Harris
John Gilbert

Honorarium

An honorarium has been received for Buck and Joelyne Trehern from Rebecca Cross.

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

February 2008

- 3 *Transfiguration of the Lord*
Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17: 1-9
- 10 *1st Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32;
Rom. 5:22-19; Matt. 4:1-11
- 17 *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Gen. 12:1-4a; Ps. 121;
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 24 *3rd Sunday in Lent*
Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95;
Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

LENT

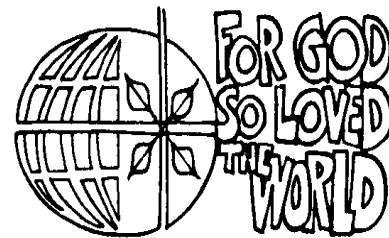
February 2008

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	

Church Calendar

February 2008

- 5 Office closed – Mardi Gras
- 6 Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team – 10:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday – noon communion service
- 7 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
- 8 Meals on Wheels
- 10 Celebration of the Lord's Supper (1st Sunday in Lent)
Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 12 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Committees
- 13 Circles
Lenten Noon Service
Bible Study & Supper – 5:45 p.m.
- 14 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 17 Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 19 Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Lenten Noon Service
Bible Study & Supper – 5:45 p.m.
- 21 Women's Bible Study – 9:15
- 22-23 Presbytery Meeting at Spanish Fort Presbyterian
- 24 Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 27 Lenten Noon Service
Bible Study & Supper – 5:45 p.m.
- 28 Women's Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.



Unscramble

the words to find things to do to have an abundant life.

1. keam a itgf _____

2. ktea a wlka _____

3. gnis a nsgo _____

4. od a ikdn eded _____

5. mreimzoe citreuprs _____

6. phle eonsom _____

7. lcla a sloomnee nroesp _____

8. arde hte bBeil _____

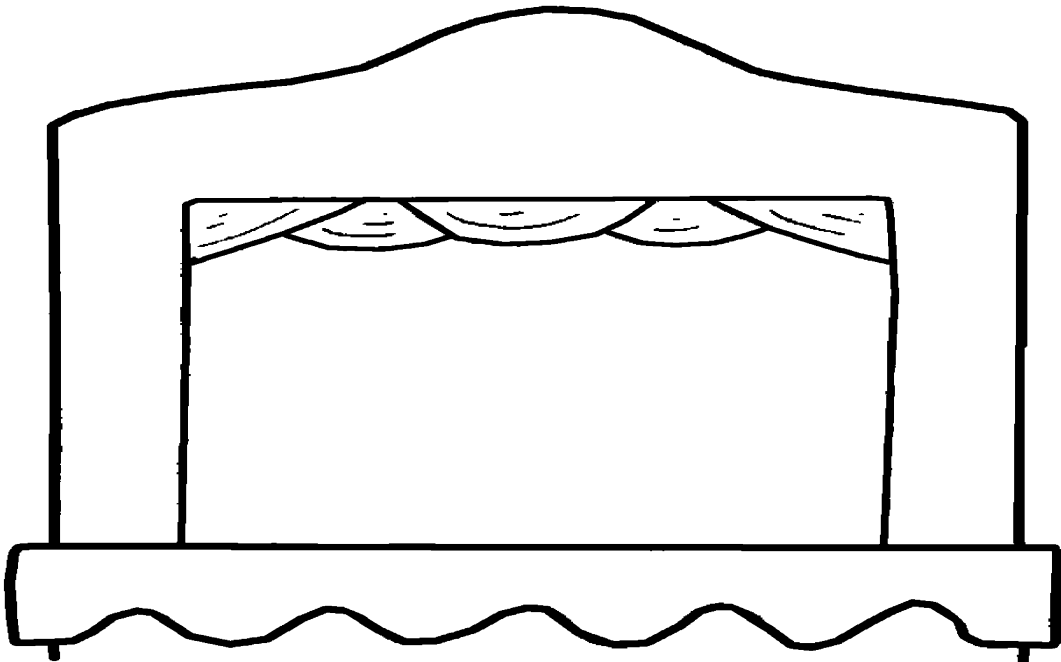
9. rpya orf osoemen _____

10. iertw a epmo _____

Answers: Make a gift, take a walk, sing a song, do a kind deed, memorize scripture, help someone, call a lonesome person, read the Bible, pay for someone, write a poem

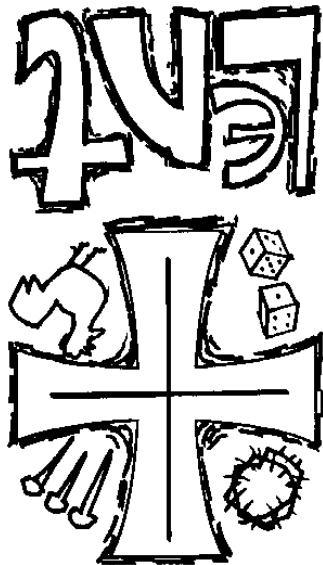
God's Love

Draw a picture of someone on the stage doing something to show God's love.



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*February
Newsletter*