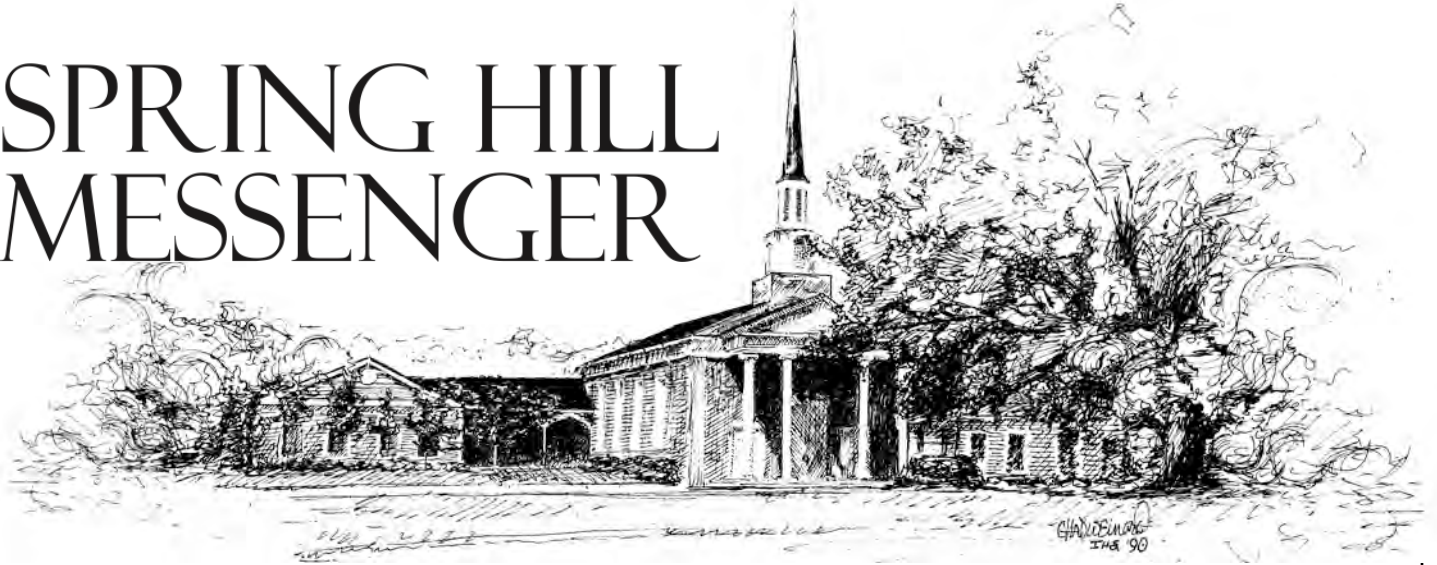


# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 68, Number 4, May 2011

## THE LAST WORD

We are in the Easter season throughout the month of May and even into June. Of all the liturgical seasons, this is the most joyous. It could hardly be otherwise. Easter, and the seven weeks that follow, point to the gracious power of the Father Who raised not only His Son from the dead, but brings us into new life, and at our death, into His visible presence. Therefore, how can we not celebrate? The drudgeries of life are what they are; sorrow is what it is; but neither has the last word. That word is reserved for God alone. It's His word that brings gladness out of grief, joy out of anger, and life out of death. It was His word that brought creation into being; His Word that became flesh and went to the Cross for us; and His word that raised Jesus from the dead. And thanks be to Him, it

is His word that comes to us saying:

*“Follow My Son.*

*Trust Him.*

*Lean on Him.*

*Do as He asks.*

*Serve as He serves.*

*Love as He loves.”*

Of course, we can celebrate, whether quietly or not, because we are surrounded by the power of God's word: His Word Incarnate and His Word Written. We who are “in Christ” know that power. We live in it. We find our purpose by it. We are able to love through it. We know our nothingness apart from it. Our whole being is the result of it. The very surety of our salvation is found in the grace

of that Word. It is our blessed assurance, our comfort in life and in death. It is the Rock to which we cling and the Refuge to which we flee. Apart from it, we are lost. With it, in it, and through it, we have the spiritual abundance which Jesus promised and the joy of everlasting life with Him. That is what this Easter season proclaims! And that is why we can find joy in the midst of struggle and sorrow; for the One Who raised His Son from the dead is raising us now into the fullness of life and into the depths of His love. Cling to that Truth, for there's nothing more wonderful than what it gives to every person who embraces it and loves it.

Yours in His Love,

NORMAN



**From the Pastor**

# *One thing is needed.*



I am supposing that this is my very last column in the SHPC newsletter, but I've learned God works in mysterious ways. Possibly I should rather say, if the Lord wills it, this is my last newsletter as a SHPC employee. As I prepare to tell the college students about my plans to stay home and be a mama, Jesus' words to the Martha seem appropriate:

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."  
Luke 10: 41-42*

There are many days I feel the ministry God has given me to college students is a ministry of exhortations. I often wonder if Jesus rode the roller coaster of emotions as I do – joy when exhortations are heeded, discouragement when they sometimes fall on deaf ears. There is no doubt the Son of God, whatever emotions He experienced during His earthly ministry, handled every situation perfectly. No one can say the same for me, but by the grace of God, I have had the

privilege to walk with the hurting and the broken over the last two years.

As I prepare to give the students one last exhortation, I share the same with you. You heard it from Jesus. One thing is needed: give your heart to Jesus and the rest will fall into place. The last thing the world needs is another person caught up in the busyness of life, "To Do List" in hand, consumed by what we have going on in our own lives and blind to the desperate needs of others. Yes, I am guilty of being a Martha. Heck, it was my middle name for 24 years, and I carried it well. Most of us type Aers do!

But let's take a few minutes to really look at what Jesus is saying to the Martha's of the world. Let's examine how His words might even spill over and address a culture that is obsessed with busyness and self absorption. What are the many things we are worried and upset about? Is it time? Or money? Or social status? Or comfort? Or security? Or peace? Or the lack of peace? Or your children? Or unforgiveness? Fill in the blank. What is it? NOW, TODAY, at this moment choose to be a Mary instead of a Martha and carry those things to the feet of Jesus. Stop your hustle and bustle of busy living and take time to truly talk to him

about whatever it is. Surrender them to His power and His control, and then listen and receive the words of peace and life He has for you.

When we live in a state of constantly surrendering the details of our every day, our every move to the Lord Jesus Christ then and ONLY THEN are we freed to be busy with our heavenly Father's work. We are freed to unleash forgiveness, to let grace flow uninhibited, to love abundantly, and to give and serve others generously. While the world doesn't need another busy, self absorbed person, it is desperate for Christians who fit this description. When we claim Him, we carry His name. What does your life reveal about the name you carry? Choose what is better.

Now go, build on the foundation that has been laid by Jesus Christ. Whatever work He has for you, do it by His grace in total surrender. If you do, it will not be taken from you. On the last Day, He will loving look at you and say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Gratefully yours,

*Molly Broders*

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## **Lock-In**

All children in grades 1-6 are invited to a Luau Lock-In on May 20-21. See Andrea Hall ([andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org)) for more details or to sign up!

# Vacation Bible School

**I**t's hard to believe that summer is really waiting for us just around the corner, but it is almost here once again. This summer (June 5-8), we here at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church are blessed to be hosting Vacation Bible School for children age 3 through grade 5. Our theme this year is **"Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!"** The children will get to travel back in time to Jesus' hometown and play the games that he played, eat the food that he ate, and even meet and talk to Jesus' mother, Mary. It will be a unique opportunity for the children to enter into the story and learn about Jesus from the perspective of the townspeople.

As many of you know, due to staff changes, we did not host VBS last summer. I know that many of us were disappointed about that. Vacation Bible School is one of those very special church events. It is a time when children can come together and learn about who Jesus is and who they are. It is a time when we have a unique opportunity to reach out to our community. It is a time when children and adults can take major steps on their faith journeys. There is no doubt that Vacation Bible School is an exciting time, and almost every church

member is excited to hear that their church is hosting Vacation Bible School.

And that is a very good thing, because it takes almost every church member to make Vacation Bible School a success! This year is no different. We need everyone to help in some way. If you can volunteer your time to be a leader, we need you. If you have a talent for decorating or cleaning up, we need you. If you can volunteer your resources by donating items to be used in decorating, games, or snacks, we need you (see the list of items to donate in this month's newsletter and upcoming bulletins). If you can pray for the children and staff, we need you to sign up for our prayer team.

It takes a whole community in order to care for, teach, nurture, organize, and guide the children at Vacation Bible School. When God calls a church to host Vacation Bible School for the kids in a community, he calls the WHOLE church to pull together and make it happen. I believe that he is calling each of us to do something. The only questions that we have to answer are: 1) What is he calling me to do? and 2) How will I respond?

If you are a member of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church and have not yet signed up to help out with Vacation Bible School, please call the church or e-mail me at [andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org). No matter what your situation (you'll be out of town, you work during the day, your energy level isn't what it used to be, etc.), we have a place for you! Please come and make Hometown Nazareth come to life for the children of our church.

Praise God, who has called us to do children's and family ministry in a BIG way this summer! Let us all respond to this call with enthusiasm and gratitude!

Blessings,

**Andrea Hall**  
Director of Christian Education





**SHPC Vacation Bible School  
Hometown Nazareth  
June 5-8, 2011  
For children age 3-grade 5  
Registration is now open!**

**To register, go to [www.groupvbsspro.com/vbs/hl/shpc](http://www.groupvbsspro.com/vbs/hl/shpc)**

Some of the items that we will need in order to turn Spring Hill Presbyterian Church into Hometown Nazareth for this year's Vacation Bible School. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

If you are willing to donate any of the items on this list, please bring them to the church before May 29. If at all possible, please leave the items in Room 200 of the Bullard Building (up the stairs or elevator and to the right). Alternatively, please bring the items to the Christian Education office (in the Main Building, next to the Bride's Room).

If you want your items to be returned to you, please mark the items very clearly with your full name!!

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Hall at [andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org).

- baskets
- artificial plants, flowers, food
- 10 EZ-up tents/canopies
- old sheets, blankets, tablecloths, or fabric (appropriate for "Nazareth" setting)
- metal tubs
- old washcloths and towels
- herbs/dried flowers
- drying racks
- pots and urns (clay or clay-look-alike)
- small terra cotta pots
- tarps
- throw pillows
- 10 mortar and pestle sets
- baby wipes
- 100 new knee-high nylons
- buckets
- broom sticks



The following young people will be confirmed at the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 15. We praise God for calling them, baptizing them, and granting them the gift of faith. We pray that he would continue to guide and nurture them in their journeys!

- Mbayi Anna Andon Aben, daughter of Alice Enyong and Moses Kum
- Hunter Michael Avery, son of Brandy and Mike Avery
- Roy Francis Bennett IV, son of Candace and Trey Bennett
- Ashley Nicole Forwood, daughter of Amy Morris and Steve Forwood
- Samantha Dawn Fry, daughter of Deborah and Don Fry
- Hayley Elizabeth Hack, daughter of Stacy and Bryan Hack
- Daniel Aven Hall, son of Cheryl and Rudolph Hall
- Jessica Marie Herring, daughter of Karen and Charly Herring
- Caroline Key Lamberth, daughter of Kelley and Edwin Lamberth
- Elizabeth Suzanne McLeod, daughter of Julie and Doug McLeod
- John Markert Morris, son of Amy Morris and Steve Forwood
- Bryan Collin Reed Jr., son of Gloria and Bryan Reed
- Katherine Claire Sweeney, daughter of Leslie and Bob Sweeney
- William Andrew Walton, son of Nancy and Willie Walton
- James Grant White, son of Alison and Neil White



## Communion Workshop

The following children (and their parents) participated in a Communion Workshop on Saturday, April 9. Some of these children shared in the Lord's Supper for the very first time at the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 21. We celebrate with them on this important step in their faith journey!

Grayson Brown, son of Ashley and Dean Brown  
Lucy Brown, daughter of Ashley and Dean Brown  
Billy Harper, son of Amanda and Ben Harper  
Ruth Harper, daughter of Amanda and Ben Harper  
Renee Hunt, son of Carrie and Steve Hunt  
Libba Lamberth, daughter of Kelley and Edwin Lamberth  
Camille O'Gwynn, daughter of Marty and Bubba O'Gwynn

Franny O'Gwynn, daughter of Marty and Bubba O'Gwynn  
Thomas Pipes, son of Amy and Wes Pipes  
Abby Reed, daughter of Gloria and Bryan Reed  
Mary Martin True, daughter of Julie and Rick True  
Coleman Turnipseed, daughter of Mendy and Robbie Turnipseed  
Drew Turnipseed, son of Mendy and Robbie Turnipseed



## Music Notes

By Randy Sheets, Director of Music  
Ministries and Organist

### "Who are You?"

A Musical Drama

presented by our Children's Choirs

Sunday, May 8

at our morning worship services

"We are Children  
of Our God!"



## Calling All Yomen

Webster defines "Yeoman's service" as: "exceptionally good or loyal service or assistance."

### What are some of the things that we do to help maintain our Church's physical plant?

**Power wash** mildew from sidewalks, entrances and outbuildings, as needed.

**Paint** interior walls of rooms, restripe parking slots, define handicap (blue) areas and paint fences.

**Miscellaneous** – Replace ceiling tiles, trim dead limbs, pull out trees, briars from plantings and whatever else we are asked to do and are capable of doing.

### What we don't do:

Heavy lifting, serious carpentry work, replacement of wasted metal structural members or roofing repairs.

### When is our work day?

Third Saturday a.m. of each month. Coffee, etc. available; work flex-time available.

### When do we meet?

We are part of the Plant Services Committee, which meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### What are our needs?

We are getting "long in the tooth" and need some younger guys to step in and help us in our tasks!

### Rewards:

Satisfaction in that we are doing our job as stewards charged with the duty of keeping His House looking good!

### Contact:

If you wish to help, contact Elder Yeoman Alex Lankford at [alankford@handarendall.com](mailto:alankford@handarendall.com) or 694-6222, or contact Sallie at the Church



**All Presbyterian Women** are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Officer Installation and Lunch Wednesday, May 11 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The lesson and meeting will be in the sanctuary followed by a delicious lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided by request. Please call the church office for reservations.

**Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, May 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.**

**Remember AL/MS Women's Conference at Memorial Presbyterian in Montgomery July 20-22**

## Church Calendar May 2011

- 1 Youth Sunday – 11:00 a.m.  
Senior Breakfast
- 3 Committees
- 4 Presbyterian Women's  
Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Children's Musical
- 10 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.  
Diaconate - 7:00 p.m.  
Session – 7:00 a.m.
- 11 Presbyterian Women's General Meeting  
and Lunch – 10:30 a.m.
- 13 Meals on Wheels - 10:30
- 15 Communion  
Confirmation – 11:00 am.  
Blood Drive – 8:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Newsletter Deadline
- 20-21 Lock-In – Grades 1-6
- 29 Summer Schedule begins –  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.;  
Christian Education Classes at 9:00 am.

## LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY: MAY 2011

- 1 2nd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31
- 8 3rd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
- 15 4th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:10-10
- 22 5th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14
- 29 6th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

## Library News

Who Wrote the Bible?

Convergence in historical events like those of heavenly bodies can produce a brighter light. The coming together of the Year of the Bible with the 400th anniversary of the King James Version translation has brought greater light on this age-old question.

NOVA, part of a PBS series of public television has produced a program entitled "The Bible's Buried Secrets".

This will be a new part of the library's AV collection and available for circulation and use by the congregation. Yet another reason for supporting Public Television!

## Current Issues:

- May 1 Mary Claire & P. J. Wright – Am I My Brother's Keeper?  
The rest of the schedule will be listed in the bulletins.

# Opportunities

## VBS Even for a Day!

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful summer activity and an important part in a child's life . If you enjoyed VBS here at Spring Hill and want to do it again as a volunteer in another community please know you are needed and appreciated very much. Zirlott Road United Methodist Church is planning a VBS for June 20-24 in Coden, AL. They are ministering to those who have had several very difficult years beginning with Katrina followed by the BP oil spill. If you could work one day or more and work in crafts or snacks or recreation or music it would be greatly appreciated. All major leadership roles are filled by the church there but they would appreciate any help we can give in assistance. If so please contact Mike Anderson(232-8653) or Dick Coats(454-8601) or Ann Jung(232-0749). They will help plug you into a special place even if it is for one day only.

## The Service Center

The Service Center of Catholic Social Services is experiencing a special need for personal hygiene items and household cleaners to assist their clients. Please consider a donation of deodorant, laundry detergent, bleach or any household cleaner or hygiene item to assist the homeless and needy population of Mobile. The Service Center is located at 555 Dauphin St. in downtown Mobile and serves the homeless and those in financial crisis due to loss or interruption of income. For more information, call 434-1510, email

[Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org](mailto:Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org) or go to

[www.servicecentercss.org](http://www.servicecentercss.org).

## Home of Grace

Home of Grace is having A Night of Inspiration, the third annual Home of Grace Benefit Banquet on May 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church. Home of Grace director, Mrs. Doris Littleton, will tell about future plans for this special mission that helps women in our community overcome addiction. There will be powerful and inspiring testimonies from these women who have found new life at the Home of Grace. Enjoy a delicious catered dinner and special entertainment. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please contact Bill Layfield at 344-7656.

## Victory Health Partners

Victory Health Partners will be holding its first Annual Hope for Healing Fundraising Banquet on Tuesday evening May 3, 2011 at Mt. Hebron Church Ministries. Victory Health Partners is a faith based medical clinic providing quality, affordable healthcare to low income, uninsured adults on the Gulf Coast and is one of the special community outreaches we support with our local benevolence budget. Besides highlighting Dr. Robert Lightfoot's vision of witnessing to the Gospel message by bringing affordable healthcare to those in need, the evening will feature inspirational music from Alicia Williamson, a keynote address by Dr. Mark Foley of the University of Mobile and a fabulous dinner. If you are interested in attending and joining a Spring Hill Presbyterian table, please contact Harvie Jordan at 454-1976. Additional information is available on flyers in the back hall or at [www.victoryhealth.org](http://www.victoryhealth.org).

## Book of Timothy



### Memorials have been received for the following:

Evelyn Hubbard  
Dot Rowell  
Roland Williams  
Eugenia Weatherbee

### From the following:

Liz Hill  
Dalen Livingston  
Duncan & Frances McDonald  
Helen Wells

## DO YOU WANT TO . . .

find out  
when the prayer team meets?  
when Confirmation Sunday is?  
when communion is being offered next?  
when the Presbyterian Women's Circles meet?  
Go to [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us) and click on Calendar.

find out  
what our adult Christian Ed classes are?  
what the Current Scriptures reading is?  
Go to [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us), click on Education, then on Adults.

find out about Vacation Bible School?  
[www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us) > Education > Vacation Bible School.

find out  
who the Budget and Finance Committee chair is?  
what the staff email addresses are?  
Go to [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us), click on About Us, and scroll down.

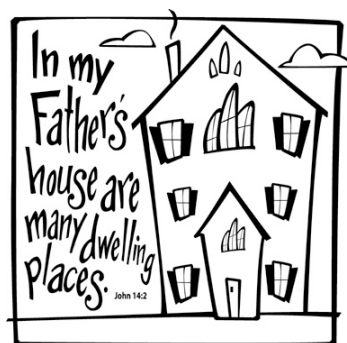
find out who we help with our local outreach efforts?  
[www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us), click on Missions.

find someone to talk with in confidence?  
[www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us), click on Care and Counseling

make reservations for meals?  
[www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us), click on Make Meal Reservations (at lower left)

Did you miss a sermon? Do you want to check the announcements in the Sunday Bulletin?  
See one of the monthly newsletters?  
Find a link to the national office? to the Presbyterian Voice?

Go to  
[WWW.SHPC.US](http://WWW.SHPC.US)



# Grace Abounds

In Philippians 2:3-5 Paul wrote:

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”*

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude (mind) should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

Christ was humble and taught by his words and example to give in order to obey God’s commands and to serve humanity. Like Christ, we should have a joyful attitude, serving out of love for God and others, and not out of guilt or fear. We can expect others to serve us, or we can look for opportunities to serve others. We can all choose our attitude.

The members of the Church serve in countless ways both seen and unseen. Without the many hours spent on everything ranging from teaching Sunday school to making sure the buildings are maintained the congregation would not be served and the Lord’s work would not be done. However, there can be a temptation to let this service turn into a duty, and be seen as nothing more than an obligation to the Lord rather than

an opportunity to serve the Lord and the congregation. Once this happens service becomes work and it can be resented; the server can become cold hearted. Tithing is no different from service to the church in this regard. If you give to the church or tithe out of guilt or obligation it turns into one more bill to pay, as opposed to an opportunity to actually interact with God on a consistent and regular basis and thank him for his blessings.

Scripture is filled with examples of the blessings of giving (look up John 3:16, giving makes me more like God, God is a giver; Matthew 6:21, giving draws me closer to God-he is my treasure; Acts 20-35, giving brings joy). What could be a greater blessing than giving to God? When you consider your next tithe or offering think about what the Lord has done for you and consider the words of Paul:

“Remember this; Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work.”

Yours in the Lord, the Stewardship Committee

## Statement as of February 28, 2011

2011 Pledges	1,155,662
Year to date received	274,879
Other receipts	285
	275,163
Benevolences	38,072
Denomination expense	8,784
Session directed gifts	37,811
Salaries and services	187,582
Programs	1,203
Office expenses	4,814
General & plant services	38,731
Other	7,499
	<u>324,495</u>
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	<u>-49,332</u>

For a complete financial report please contact Nena Smith at the church office.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church  
10 Westminster Way  
Mobile, AL 36608

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

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