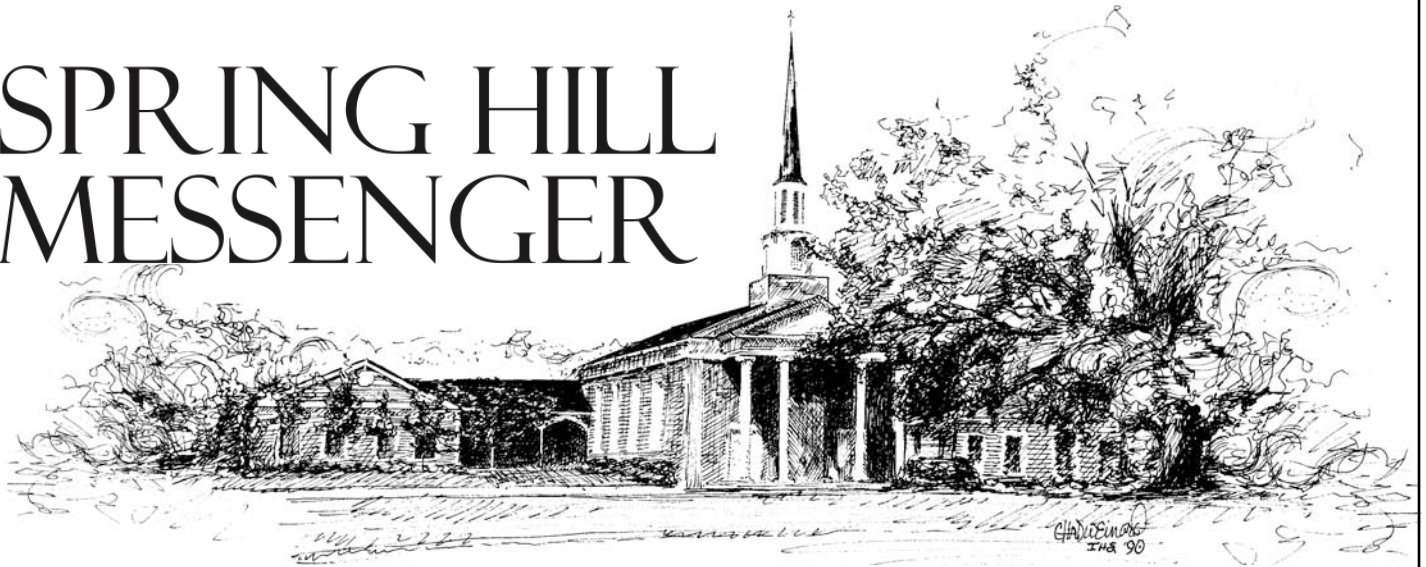


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

Volume 66, Number 19, November, 2010

From the Pastor

There is no such thing as a Christian who is without love or generosity. By definition, a Christian is a transformed man or woman, boy or girl, united to the Person and Spirit of Christ; therefore, the Christian will overflow with love, compassion, gratitude, humility, and generosity.

A major way in which the Christian expresses his or her gratitude is through tithing, not "tipping" God as one would a waiter, but through returning to God ten percent of one's income. The tithe is not ours to keep. It belongs to God. It is the Christian's pleasure to return to God what is His through His church. Beyond the tithe, the Christian finds joy in giving to institutions and causes which may be associated with a church or not, but the tithe itself is God's and is to be used solely for the increase of His kingdom through the church of Jesus Christ.

The heart of the matter is this: God created us to be fulfilled through life in His Son, and to be, as is our Savior, grateful, generous, compassionate and loving. Of course, we have the choice to go our own way, to govern our finances apart from God's directions, and to feel we are entitled to what and to do with it exactly as we please. The other choice is that we can thank God for the grace we have received by giving ourselves fully to Jesus, by loving as He loves us, and by showing generosity as He



has shown us through His Cross. This choice is the path to lasting happiness, to liberation of the spirit, and to the abundant life which God promised through His Son. There is no reason not to trust God. Since God has asked us to tithe, there must be many reasons even beyond our knowing for His request. But this truth is long proven: Tithing is liberating. It's putting into action what God has asked. It is

experiencing what He wants for us. And what does He want for us? God wants us to live in the freedom of holiness and gratitude, and that freedom comes when we trust Him, obey Him, and love Him.

If you have never tithed to your church, do so now, and you will experience the abundance of grace which God has promised to those who trust Him. Remember His words: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...put Me to the test...see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." (Malachi 3:10)

Yours in His love,

Norman

Family Fun Day Lifts Spirits



To anyone driving by Ralston Park, which is near Bayou La Batre, it was clear that big doin's were under way—lots of cars and several hundred people. Driving into the park, they would have first passed the “jumpy,” an inflated plastic house, in which children were happily jumping with energy only children have. Beyond the “jumpy” was a game area in which other children were tossing water balloons back and forth to one another—some even staying dry.

After the visitors passed the children's play area, they came upon several smokers cooking chickens and hot dogs, and the cook's trailer. Behind the smokers and the trailer was a large pavilion covering the serving line with smoked chicken, string beans, jambalaya and bread, plus hot dogs and the fixin's, as well as cake for desert, and a choice of drinks. More than three hundred people were fed, and the leftover food was donated to take care of nearby needy people.

Next in line was the band. They were under the trees on the west side of the park. Their music

floated over the whole park, and there was music for the whole event, provided by two bands. People would stand and listen for a while, then drift on. Others sat under pavilions and canopies placed around the band area.

Also under the trees were long tables with a selection of donated used clothing. People busily picked through it for things their families could use throughout the afternoon.

This was Family Fun Day. Sponsored by four churches in the presbytery with the help of the Hemley Rd. Church of Christ in Bayou La Batre, it was to give enjoyment and a chance to reconnect—as well as a meal and clothing—to people who haven't had much to enjoy since the oil disaster began. For me, one of the high points was walking among the people with Daphne, leader of the Hemley Rd. church's food distribution ministry. She described some of the people she saw there. One was a grandmother with her two granddaughters who she was raising. Daphne said she hadn't been out in months. They were

enjoying themselves. Daphne was pleased by the presence of a number of people she recognized.

Family Fun Day was put together by people from Overlook, Central and Spring Hill churches in Mobile, and the bulk of the cooking was done by people from Trinity in Fairhope. By a revised estimate, there were about 35 people from Spring Hill among those putting on the event. There were lots of Spring Hill students, from elementary age through Westminster Fellowship (campus ministry) as well as a number of adults to supervise the children, who were themselves helpers with games for preschoolers and elementary school age Family Fun day Guests.

I believe this outreach was effective in showing people on the coast that God's people care about them. I'm grateful for all who prayed for the event, and for all who came and took part.

Pastor Sid

Got An Extra Can?

Seven years ago, John and Delores Eads quit their jobs, headed to Alabama Village in Prichard and flipped an old drug house. They refurnished it and opened it as a home school and after-school program for children called Light of the Village.

Every Thursday, the SHPC youth program rides down to Light of the Village, and has the opportunity to play games and do crafts with the children for two hours.

But, as you can imagine, the children of Light of the Village are not as financially fortunate as the youth of Spring Hill. To help out, around Thanksgiving, we will be distributing food in paper bags to the families of the children who attend Light of the Village.

Recently, our youth program went out into the

surrounding communities and collected cans. However, we did not receive as many cans as we had hoped.

This is where the SHPC congregation can help.

We need cans. We need non-perishable food items. We need your help.

As a youth program, we can only do so much to help others without our own Body of Christ pitching in.

So, if you have a couple extra cans, will you please consider donating them in the blue bins located in the main building, or in other bins in the Bullard building labeled for Light of the

Village?

Thank you so much for your help with this! We are excited that this ministry has allowed us to serve Christ in tangible ways.



Giving Thanks the Southern Way

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

When we moved to the South last spring, I paid close attention to all the differences in culture. As a pastor's wife and church staff member, I really wanted to try my best not to offend anyone inadvertently. While I still have a lot to learn, one thing that I noticed was that Southerners are artists when it comes to thanking someone properly. While we Yankees were taught to say "thank you" and write thank you notes, I am not sure that we were taught to do it with the same gusto and charm that you Southerners seem to use. I admire this quality greatly, and I've found that it has taught me something about myself.

I had not noticed it before, but I realized that I am not very good at saying "thank you," particularly when I have received praise or an unmerited gift or favor. I certainly want to thank people who have been nice to me or who have paid me a compliment, but I find it difficult to accept this kindness, and my words of gratitude end up coming out in a mumbled, sheepish, and red-faced, "thanks," followed by a quick change of the subject. Noticing this caused me to wonder, "Why do I have such a hard time expressing my gratitude?"

I came to the conclusion that I end up feeling embarrassed that I am receiving either credit or the fruits of someone's labor when I hadn't done anything to merit such things. For example, if someone says, "Andrea, that was a great children's sermon that you gave this morning," I immediately have one or two thoughts: either "No, that really wasn't very good at all," or "Actually, that wasn't half-bad, but I can't take the credit, because I had help from God and a friend." So, I end up brushing off the compliment and making the complimenter uncomfortable instead of simply and genuinely thanking the person for taking the time to say something kind and encouraging to me. Even if their words were underserved, I need to remember

that they were said honestly and from the heart, and I should honor those words by my grateful and sure acceptance.

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, I think about how hard it is for me to say "thank you" to God. I have received so many unmerited blessings and favors from Him, the best of which is his love for me in Christ Jesus. I am so undeserving of these gifts that it is embarrassing. And, yet, God is deserving of my simple and genuine expression of gratitude, which He received far too rarely. I need to be better at displaying what I feel inside: deep and heartfelt thanks for who He is and what He has done for me.

Southerners have a way of taking the simple things in life and turning them into an art form. And, saying "thank you" is no exception. I have read beautifully composed thank you notes that must have taken hours to write. So, my challenge for this Thanksgiving is to thank God the Southern way: with simplicity, genuine heart, charm, and with no embarrassment. The gifts of God may be undeserved, but we should accept them with confidence – not in ourselves, but in the Giver, who is ever deserving of all the gratitude we can muster.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Blessings,

Andrea Hall

Director of Christian Education



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in worship on November 28, the first Sunday of Advent.

Fair shopping is great shopping!

A new Shopping Event (and **NOT** just for women) is coming to us via Spanish Fort Presbyterian church on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20 at the PW sponsored **Alternative Gift Fair**. What the heck does that mean? Judy Persons, PW Together in Service Coordinator (TIS) for the Synod of Living Waters, is coming to tell us about it at First Thursday Luncheon, November 4. **Together In Service** is "church speak" for Missions Coordinator.

To get you started in thinking of the benefits of the Alternative Gift Fair...With fair trade, we put our money where our mouth is. If you've ever expressed concern about hunger, poverty, drug trafficking, child labor and slavery, deforestation and pollution, now you can really do something about it. Buy fair trade.

How does fair trade work? Small farms and cottage industries join together in **cooperatives** and work with fair trade exporters, giving them access to the international markets. On his own, a small farmer deals with brokers who pay just pennies for produce, often less than the cost of growing the crop.

Certification as a fair trade product, a process handled in the United States by the nonprofit TransFair USA, ensures the farmer and workers were paid a fair price for the crop. Routine items such as coffee, bananas, and chocolate are labeled as fair trade certified and available in stores.

Here are the benefits to farmers, their families, and communities when we buy their coffee at a fair price:

- Farmers earn enough to support their families so the children are able to attend school instead of working in the fields. In Guatemala, one fair trade cooperative is sending students to college for the first time.
- Fair trade products are grown with care for the environment,. Harmful pesticides are prohibited.
- The products are of exceptional quality. Because farmers receive a fair price, they do not cut corners to cut costs.

Without fair trade practices, the picture is bleak for most farmers and their families. For example, an Ecuadorian family of four needs \$9.60 per day for basic necessities, but on non-fair trade banana farms, workers earn as little as \$2 a day. This disparity often leads to children working in the fields to supplement the family income. The situation is even bleaker in Africa.

A fair trade label on any product guarantees no slavery or child labor contributed to it. It further guarantees a fair price was paid for a high-quality product grown with care for the environment.

Worldwide, farmers are trapped in a cycle of poverty and debt because they are denied access to international markets by brokers and middlemen. Fair trade helped them earn a decent living. Fair trade certification is not a handout; it's a guarantee the farmers received a fair share of the final market value of their product.

Judy will help us to better understand the availability of Fair Trade products and how we, as individuals, can make a difference.

Your Fair Trade shopping will buy gifts that give again...

Mark your calendars for this important shopping date: Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20.

The PW of Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR. This will be a great opportunity for you to purchase wonderful and unusual gifts for your family and friends while knowing that your money is going to help people all over the world AND here in Alabama. At the Fair you will find certified FAIR TRADE products or items whose sales benefit Christian based organizations both local and abroad. Groups include SERRV, Equal Exchange, Heifer International (our church will also offer its annual H. I. purchase opportunity in December), Soul of Somanya, Living Waters of the world, PW Mission Scholarship Fund and Presbyterian Home for Children. Sales will be cash or checks only – no credit cards. **Gifts that keep on giving.**

Music Notes

By Randy Sheets, Director of Music Ministries and Organist



Choir Participation in Worship during November

All Children’s Choirs (age 4 through grade 5): Nov. 21, 11:00 a.m.

Youth Chorale and Youth Handbells: Nov. 7, 11:00 a.m. and Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m.

Spring Hill Ringers: Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m. and Nov. 14, 11:00 a.m.

Chancel Choir: each 11:00 service, except 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 7.

Looking Ahead

- **“Wonder, O Earth”** Christmas music, with our Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Dec. 5, both worship services
- Guest artists in Residence: **Friends of the Groom** (Christian drama group from Cincinnati) Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 22-23. During their stay, they will lead Saturday drama activities for youth and adults, participate in our morning worship services, and perform a Sunday afternoon “concert.”

Library News

Public Television makes possible interesting and informative programs which complement our Christian Education in the church setting.

A recent 3-part series was aired entitled “God in America”. This historic documentary traced the origin and impact of the Protestant faith which influenced the founding fathers as well as the economic and social outlook of the country and still shapes the American outlook today.

The church library has ordered a copy of this program for its collection, but it will not be available until after November 9th. If viewers miss any part of the series, it should be ready by the middle of November for home or church use.

In the meantime overdue notices have been mailed for material(s) which need renewal or to be returned to the library. Please respond.

Statement as of September 30, 2010

2010 Pledges	<u>\$1,201,402</u>
Year to date received	808,669
Other receipts	2,757
	811,426
Benevolences	79,523
Denomination expense	8,168
Session directed gifts	113,432
Salaries and services	516,981
Programs	46,099
Office expenses	22,215
General & plant services	98,320
Other	28,292
	913,030
Excess receipts over expenses (deficit)	<u>-\$101,604</u>

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY: November 2010

7 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145: 1-5, 17-21 or
Ps. 98
2 Thess. 1:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

14 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12:2 Thess. 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

21 Christ the King/Reign of Christ
Jer. 12:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col. 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

28 1st Sunday of Advent
Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122: Rom. 13:11-14
Matt. 24:36-44



It is not too late to join a Sunday School class this fall!

Not connected, but feel like you're too far behind?
Here are a couple of our stellar classes for your
consideration! All of our adult Sunday School classes
meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

- Pathfinders: led by Jackie McClain, this class
discusses selected readings from Walk thru the
Bible's indeed devotional magazine.
Meets in the Parlor
- Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Using
the book of the same name by Donald Bryan Reed,
this class meets in the Bride's Room.
- For a complete list of course offerings, please see
the lime green course catalogue that is located in the
narthex and in the hallway of the Main Building.

November 2010						
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 November 2010

- 1 Baptism class – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Committees
- 3 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study & Dinner – 5:45 p.m.
- 4 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 7 Men & Women's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 9 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Circles
Dinner with our Jewish Friends
Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
Men & Women's Bible Study – 5:45 p.m.
Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Circles
- 11 Dinner with our Jewish friends – 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 18 Girl's Night Out
- 19 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Yeoman Work Day
- 21 Stewardship Sunday
- 23 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Forest Hills
United Methodist Church – 7:00 pm. with reception
following.
- 25 Thanksgiving – church office closed
- 26 Church office closed

Current Issues Sunday School Schedule

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 7 | Cassie Steele – Marriage: The Covenant |
| November 14 | Pat Ray – Seeing Gray n a World of Black & White: Where Faith and Politics Meet. |
| November 21 | Sam Strada – Health Care Disparities |
| November 28 | Bill Layfield – The Advent Conspiracy |

Presbyterian Women Activities



Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday November 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, November 10 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m at the home of Sylvia Weinard (1601 Woodspointe Circle)

#3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

#4 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor

Important Dates

March 16, 2011 PW Spring Gathering at Government Street Presbyterian

May 11, 2011 Birthday Luncheon and officer installation

July 20-22, 2011 AL/MS Conference at Memorial Presbyterian in Montgomery

Presbyterian Women recognized Kaye Mims with an Honorary Life Membership during a luncheon October 13 at the church. Members, relatives and friends attended the noon luncheon. The members recognized Kaye for her many years of service to Presbyterian Women. They also took up the Thank Offering.

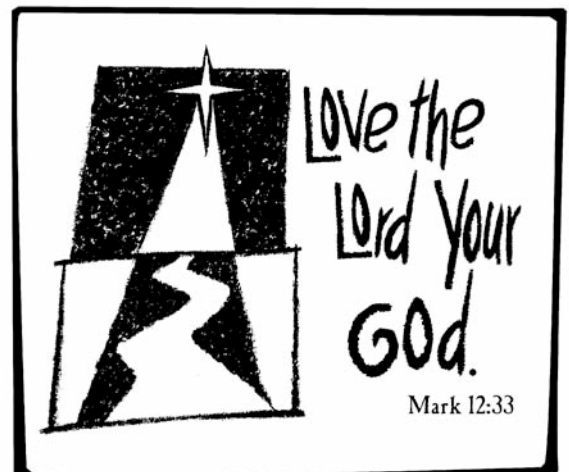
Presbyterian by Design

The design of the honorary Life Membership pin was adopted in celebration of coming together of Presbyterian Women from the former United Presbyterian Church I, the U.S.A., and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The caring supportive hands represent women who seek to build an inclusive community of Presbyterian Women. The leaf represents growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The dove indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world shown in the globe. At the center of the design is the cross, by which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ who is at the center of our lives. The overall design is of a butterfly, symbol of the newness in Christ and the emergence of a new creation, Presbyterian Women. When you see a Presbyterian woman wearing this pin, you know she has been distinguished as receiving the honorary Life Member Award. On the national PW Web site, you will be able to order lapel pins. I encourage you to wear it on Sundays, as well as the life membership pins, for those of you who have them.

Yo men..and Wo men

The Plant Services Committee sponsors a Yeoman Day at the church each month, usually on the third Saturday of the month.

The Yeoman may perform a variety of tasks such as painting, power washing, hanging pictures and other similar types of activities that enhance the beauty of our facilities. They are always searching for volunteers to join them for a morning of light work and fellowship. If you are interested in participating at any time, please contact Peter Pearce at 342-6110.



“Follow Me”

In the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel (Mark 1:16), the reader is placed upon a beach watching two fishermen tend their nets. Along comes Christ with an interesting invitation, “follow me and I’ll make you fisher of men.” This is Simon and Andrew’s call to discipleship.

How would you respond to Christ’s invitation to “follow me”?

Obviously it is difficult to compare our life to the life of Simon and Andrew. Our relationships (family, school work, church committees) and obligations (house notes raising children, tending to parents) present reasonable challenges for our ability to put down our nets and “follow”, but Christ extends this all to all His people

So how do we respond?

For me, it is helpful to remember God is the Creator! God does not need me to accomplish His plan. God allows me to be involved in His work to help me know His love. Furthermore, in “following” I surrender the opportunities for selfish decisions. For me, my biggest problems are the direct result of my selfish decisions. On the other hand, I’ve lived long enough to experience the

wisdom and joy that can only be realized when I choose to “follow”.

So how do we “follow”?

We put Christ at the top of every priority list. When starting your day begin with prayer, follow with scripture and devote time for meditation. When planning your budget put pledges first. When planning your week, include time for involvements with your church beyond Sunday worship. When you stumble and fall ask Christ for help. When experiencing joy thank Christ for His Blessings. Finally, when you begin to understand the truth of his love, seek opportunities to share your thoughts to the people God brings onto your path.

Obviously there is a big difference between putting God first and dropping our nets, but in putting God first, we’re preparing ourselves for the day Christ Himself approaches with the invitation to “follow me”.

In Christ

Kendall

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

GIVE AN ANIMAL AND GIVE A LIFE !!!!!

ONCE AGAIN YOUR GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE IS CONDUCTING ITS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL; ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL MISSIONS PROGRAMS. THIS YEAR 100% EVERY DOLLAR COLLECTED FROM YOU WILL BE MATCHED BY A DONOR TO HEIFER ALL PROCEEDS THIS YEAR WILL GO TO SUPPORT HEIFER INTERNATIONALS EFFORTS IN HONDURAS.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL PROVIDES ANIMALS TO FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WHO ARE UNDERSERVED AND POOR . A REQUIREMENT OF HEIFER IS THAT ALL FIRST (1ST) BORN OF THE ANIMAL GIVEN MUST BE PASSED ON TO ANOTHER FAMILY. COWS, GOATS, WATER BUFFALO, CHICKENS, BEES AND MANY OTHER OF GODS CREATURES ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. THESE ANIMALS FOOD, INCOME, LABOR FERTILIZER AND MORE AND DRASTICALLY IMPROVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

WE WILL KICK OFF THIS FUNDS DRIVE ON DECEMBER 5TH WITH A MOMENT FOR MISSION AND WILL HAVE A TABLE AND MATERIALS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND STAFFED BY A MEMBER OF THE GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 5TH, THE 12TH AND THE 19TH OF DECEMBER FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE TO ASSIST YOU IN PURCHASING ALL OR PART OF AN ANIMAL. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHECK READY AND MADE OUT TO SPRINGHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CARE OF HEIFER AND NAME THE ANIMAL(S) YOU WISH TO PURCHASE.



Memorials have been received for the following:

Bob Trainor & Evelyn Trainor
Walne Donald
Banks & Evelyn Griffiths
Torch Hollingsworth
Bill Harris
Vilma Croom
Sara Coats
Roland Williams
Owen Drey
Dr. Robert Harris

From the following:

Ann & Sid Weinacker
Mostellar and Shreve, LLP
Gulf Coast Truck & Equipment Co., Inc.
John and Coralie Toomey
Warren and Naomi Turner
Edith Cox
Molly & Alex Lankford
Liz Hill
Roy & Gail Kennedy
Elizabeth Dodd
Ann Cheeseman
Mack & Doret Matthews
Sara Long

Shirley & Benny McDaniel
Ernest & Jane Bulwinkle
Bruce & Barbara Maynard
Robert & Mary Ann Donnell
Sue & Billy McLean
T. C. & Patricia Williams
Industrial Valve, Don Williams & Jimmy Harrell
Hunter, Lee & Rebekah Anderson
Janie Sims
Jodi Ivey
Maxine Miller
Jeff Johnson
Carolyn Tate
Mitch & Sally Cobb
Charles & Linda Langston
Seth & Jan Phelps
Ruth Fitzgerald
Donna Loftin
Earl Williams
Dwight & Loretta Baker
Dr. Robert Harlin

An honoraria has been received for Norman McCrummen

From Warren & Naomi Turner

We share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Gwin Williams in the death of her husband, Roland, on October 1; with Cindy Campbell in the death of her mother, Eva Bracewell, on Sunday, October 3; with the family of Robert Harris in his death on October 11; and with Barbara Drey in the death of her husband, Owen, on October 12.

Thank You for your love

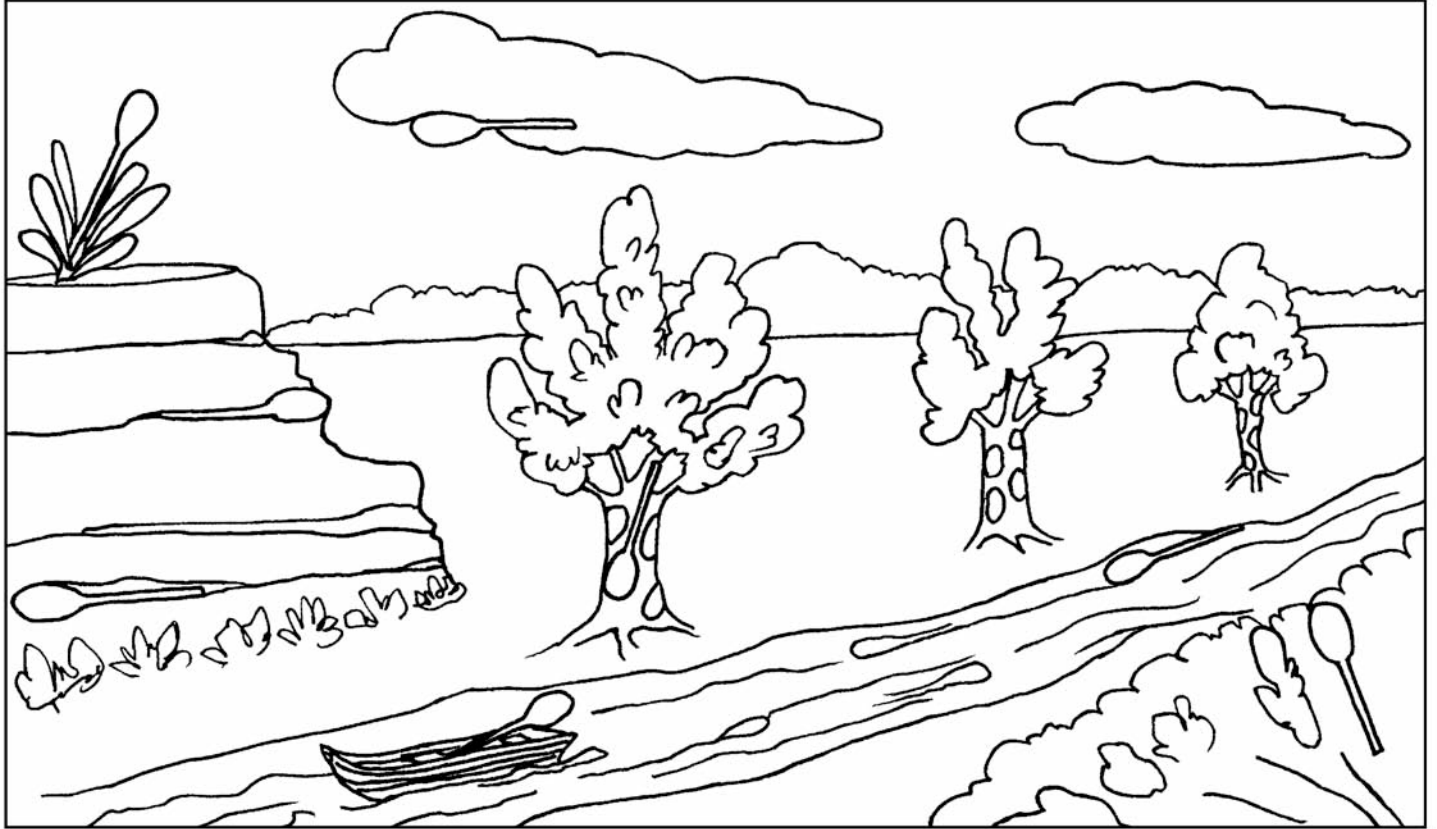
It is difficult to express mine and my children's gratitude for all the love and support we received from our church family during Bill's illness and death. Thank you so very much for your prayers, visits, concern and offers of help throughout this difficult time for us. You are truly an extended family and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Marcy Harris

Hidden picture

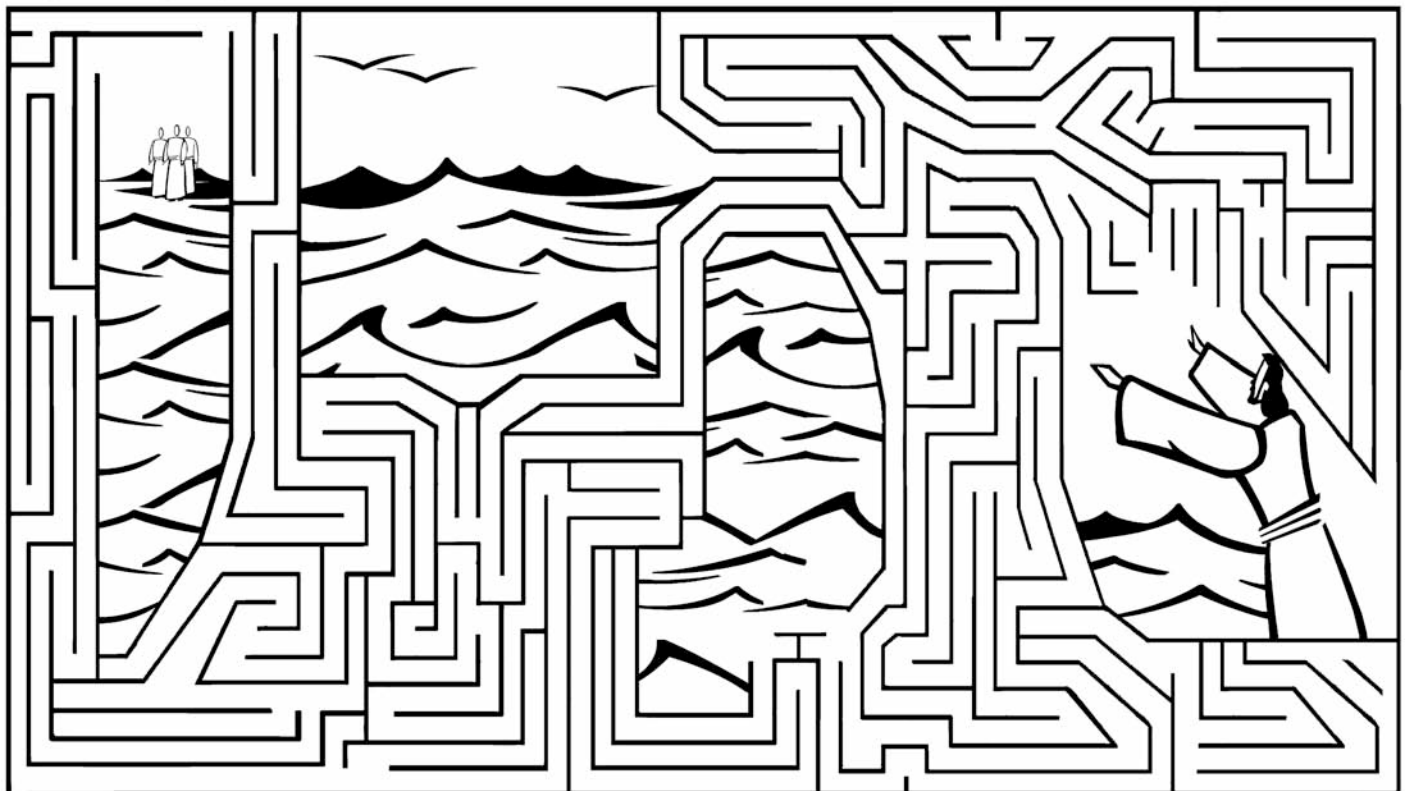
How many paddles can you find?

Answer: 11



Rough seas

Help the disciples get to Jesus at the other side of the lake.





Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Remember – Daylight Savings ends November 7.
Turn your clocks back one hour.