

Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

Vol. 64

November 2008

No. 11

From the Pastor...

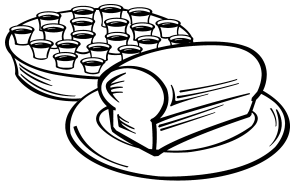
If it's at all possible, please be in church at one of the services on Sunday, November 9th. At that time we will dedicate our pledges for 2009 and renew our baptismal vows.

It is truly a singular privilege for us as a congregation to renew publicly our commitment to Christ and His church. We are deeply mindful of our many blessings and are fortunate to have a Dedication Sunday to demonstrate our gratitude. Let us look forward to it with eagerness.

On November 13th at 6:30 p.m. we will have another special occasion to give God thanks for what He has done for us. On that evening, we will host a dinner for the Ahavas Chesed congregation in remembrance of what God allowed us to witness on November 14, 2007. That was the evening Stanley Chassin forgave Tom Tarrants for what Tom had done over 40 years earlier, and when Stanley asked Tom to forgive him for hating him all those years. If you were not there and have not read the story, ask someone in the church office to give you Samford Turner's essay on that night of miracles.

There's no question, God is wondrously at work among us. When we consider all the ways in which we are blessed, we can say with the psalmist of old: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Yours in Him,
Norman



*The Lord's Supper will be celebrated
November 30th,
the first Sunday of Advent.*

Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world: it is not he who prays most or fasts most, it is not he who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.

– William Law

Choir Participation in Worship during November

(subject to change)

Angel, Carol, and Junior Choirs: 11/23, 11:00 a.m.

Youth Chorale: 11/16, 8:30 a.m. and 11/23, 11:00 a.m.

Youth Handbells (Bronze Ringers): 11/9, both services and 11/16, 8:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir: every 11:00 service

Spring Hill Ringers: 11/16, 11:00 a.m.

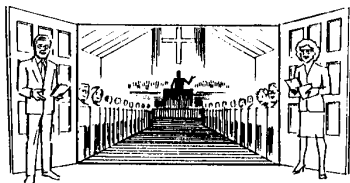


“A Savior is Born” by Randol Alan Bass

*Presented by The Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra
Sunday, Dec. 7, during our 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 worship services*

Welcome to our new member:

Richard Mann
5908 Shenandoah Road South
Mobile, AL 36608
345-1777



**Welcome to Our
Congregation**

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

St. Ignatius Catholic will host the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday November 25 at 7:00 p.m. This includes the congregations of Spring Hill Baptist, Forest Hill United Methodist, St. Paul's Episcopal and our church. There will be combined choirs from all five congregations. The offering will go to support our joint project of the Wheel-A-Meal program. A reception will follow the worship service.

Service Committee

This month we will highlight The Christmas Wish List which is part of the Service Center. The Service Committee would like to thank Sue Martino and Nancy Adams for assisting the committee with this task.

Mandated by the Gospel, the Church has always been challenged to assist those in need. Individuals have done this in a variety of ways. In Mobile, on the Diocesan level, groups such as the Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul and The Missionary Servants of the Blessed Trinity, gave untold volunteer hours to this ministry.

In the 1950's Bishop Toolen invited the Sisters of Verona from Italy to take over outreach to the needy of the area. The sisters went into poor neighborhoods with cars loaded with food and clothing. In 1960 a central location for operations was opened on Dauphin St. and moved to 571 Dauphin St. in 1964. At that time it was called The Catholic Welfare Office. The name was changed to The Service Center of Catholic Social Services in 1973.

Over the years the growing staff created a need for more space and the Service Center gradually expanded into occupancy of several adjacent store fronts. Along with growth in staff and expansion in the physical plant came a steady increase in budget.

The Service Center has been the birthing place of several present day social service agencies in the city including; Loaves and Fish, The Bay Area Food Bank, The Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy and the Christmas wish List Program.

Our church again this year will participate in the Christmas Wish List program sponsored by the Catholic Social Services Center. We will have the names of 30 children and 10 adults who will be counting on us for Christmas gifts.

We will give each child 3 gifts. Each adult will receive a package of personal items and one special gift. Cards will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall beginning November 23rd. Look for additional information regarding this program each Sunday in the church bulletin.

On the web: <http://www.mobilecss.org/>



AGENCY NEEDS

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

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

Healthcare for Homeless...Toiletries
(Donation call Hilda Gewin 342-5604)

Calendar of Events



November ----- Wings of Life Thanksgiving Day Meal
for the homeless
November ----- Christmas Wish List
December ----- Poinsettias for shut-ins

Presbyterian Women Activities

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Wednesday, November 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, November 12 as follows:

#1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Hilda Gewin (4272 Bit & Spur Road #5)

#2 at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Nancy Walton (205 Kingswood Court)

Nursery provided at the church

#3 at 9:30 am. in the Parlor

#4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor



Congratulations to Frances McDonald who received the Honorary Life Membership at the General Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Church on October 8. Each year, one lady is chosen to be the Honorary Life Member because of her dedication, commitment and leadership in the Church.

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.

If you ever see a Presbyterian woman wearing this pin, you know she has been distinguished as receiving the honorary Life Member Award.

November First Thursday Lunch Bunch News!!

Our theme this month is "To Know, Know, Know You!" (Does this bring back memories of a great 50's hit?) We'll be gathering in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 6. Be prepared to "Show and Tell" a wee bit about your hobbies, collectibles and leisure time activities. A real treat for all would be an item or two of your favorite thing! A special table will be available for display – if you don't feel like talking much, we'll put a card next to your item with the pertinent facts! It could be anything important to YOU – cooking (samples appreciated), photography or painting, handwork, cuttings, teapots (Oh no, Pat – not your teapots!) Old string – the sky's the limit!

Folks so enjoyed the book give-away table last month, it will be back by popular demand. Bring your books that need new homes. Swapping is great – you may come away with a book you've always wanted to read!

Remember that we open early – coffee and conversation can start at 10:30 a.m.! Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. (cost \$6.00). Please call the church office and make a reservation – we want to have plenty of seating and food on hand! Need a ride? Call Janie Sims – 340-6534. Can't wait to see all of you again!

Library News

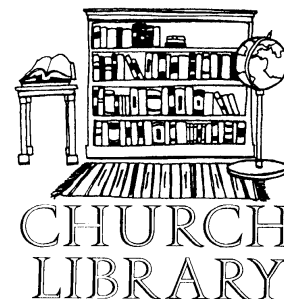
Hildegard 1098-1179 CE

Hildegard von Bingen is not a name you run across frequently, but once you have become acquainted with this twelfth century woman, you will not soon forget her.

She was a German abbess, artist, author, counselor, linguist, naturalist, scientist, philosopher, physician, herbalist, poet, visionary and composer. Not any easy life when you realize her early years were spent in a bare holed-up cell beside a medieval church where her devout parents had left her as a tithe to the church.

Solitude did not deter her active mind and she found her identity within this quiet existence. Her scribe and secretary recorded her visions, delivered her food and carried her letters and liturgical songs and poem to the outside world. She is credited with the first surviving morality play and supervising brilliant miniature illuminations of her various mystic visions.

The library has purchased a DVD copy of a BBC production of her *The Ritual of the Virtues*. This two-disc set of her music, drama, and inspired illuminations is now available for check out.



Global Missions

Many of you will remember Cephas Stern, a Jamaican pastor and friend of SHPC for many years. A letter bringing us up-to-date about him and his family is posted on the Global Mission bulletin board across from Fellowship Hall and between the parlor doors.

Table Grace

For food in a world
where many walk in hunger;
for faith in a world
where many walk in fear;
for friends in a world
where many walk alone,
we give you humble thanks,
O God. Amen.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be part of the sanctuary decorations during the Advent and Christmas season. Following the Christmas Eve service, these plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Service Committee in the name of the church. There will be a tear-off in the bulletin to use if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Cost is \$12.00. Deadline is Friday, December 5.

... every moment of our lives is sacred, and ...
we should make of each moment a sacrament.
Were we to do this we would think of the entire
world as diffused with holiness. Wherever we
might be would be a holy place for us, and we
would see the holy, even sainthood, in everyone
we encounter.

— M. Scott Peck

Religious Arts Committee

The Religious Arts Committee is pleased to announce two upcoming events:

Monday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

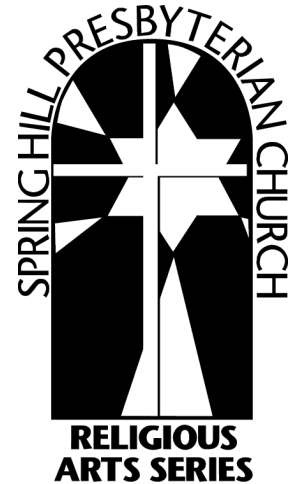
Art historian Dr. Robert Bantens will discuss two new exhibits at the Mobile Museum of Art, "Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible" and "Albrecht Durer: Art in Transition."

Monday, November 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mobile Museum of Art

The Museum will provide docent-led tours of both the "Bible" and "Durer" exhibits. The tours are free to museum members; there is a \$6.00 charge for non-members. However, the museum is making special new-membership discounts available to SHPC: Individual membership at \$15. (regularly \$25.00), of Family membership at \$25.00 (regularly \$35.00). To take advantage of these offers, contact Elaine Williams (208-5203) or Pat Ware (208-5224) at the museum.

For purposes of staffing the tours, please RSVP as soon as possible to Nicholas A. Vrakelos (415-0193), and indicate whether you are a museum member. Non-members should send the \$6.00 payment for the tour to the church office, attention Religious Arts Committee, no later than Sunday, November 9, 2008.

After the tour, lunch will be available at your own expense at the Palette Cafe which is located in the museum. In addition to the regular luncheon menu, a Spring Hill Presbyterian Church special will be offered.



Stewardship Committee

The receipts have markedly picked up in October. Let's thank God for that good news and pray that the spirit of generosity will continue to move in our church family. We know how blessed we are at Spring Hill. Through our tithes we can express our gratitude and ensure the deepening strength of our programs and mission. As of October 22, 2008, we have received \$987,849.00 toward our budget of \$ 1,289,802.00.

Do try to turn in your 2009 pledge before November 9 or bring it to one of the services on November 9.

May God bless us with the gifts of wisdom, trust and generosity as we go through this final quarter of 2008.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gordon Mowry
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Memorials

Memorials have been received for the following:

Paul Macon
James Lyons
Dr. Robert Mowry
Lucille Speith
Ethel Blythe
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stuart
Sonny Stuart

From the following:

Norman and Ann Nicolson
SHPC Circle #1
Robert and Mary Ann Donnell
John and Gene Mobley
Lloyd and Clayton Pennington
Jimmy and Allane Hybart
Alex and Molly Lankford
Sam and Judy Strada
John and Rita Langus
Buck and Joelyne Trehern
Mr. and Mrs. Alton R. Brown

God Breaking Through

November 30 is the First Sunday of Advent, and the first reading, Isaiah 64:1-9, talks about God tearing open the heavens and coming into our world anew. As we begin to prepare for Christmas, we look for signs of new life, reminding us of God's presence in our world.

Sometimes it can be easy, and other times difficult, to find signs of new life. In hot and dry places or cold and snow-covered places, it may seem like life is hidden from us. The same might be true in a busy city, where pavement and tall buildings and busyness seem to keep us apart.

In these kinds of places we, like the prophet Isaiah, may also cry out "O God, tear open the heavens and come down again."

Go for a walk in your community and look for signs of new life. Be imaginative in your looking, celebrating and giving thanks to God for what you find. Let it surprise you as you prepare to celebrate God's gift of new life in Jesus.

In 2001, Sue McLean sent me a copy of the newsletter *The Franklin Presbyterian* from the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee. In it was an essay from *The Compassionate Friends*. I found it very helpful personally and published it in the November 2001 issue of the Spring Hill Messenger. We are re-printing it here and hope that it will be helpful to those who have lost loved ones.

Dan and Laura

Dear Friends:

Ten years ago, one of our elders shared the following essay with me from "The Passionate Friends." It is about grief which, at the time, we were both experiencing. Perhaps some of you may find it meaningful.

"My old friend Grief is back. He comes to visit me once in a while to remind me that I am still a broken man. Surely there has been much healing since my son died six years ago, and surely I have adjusted to a world without him. But the truth is we never completely heal, we never totally adjust. Such is the nature of loss that no matter how much time has passed and no matter how much life has been experienced, the heart of the bereaved will never be the same. It is as though a part of us also dies with the person we lose through death. We will be all right, but we will never be the same.

"One may say that such remembering is not healthy, that we ought not to dwell on thoughts that make us sad. Yet the opposite is true. Grief revisited is Grief acknowledged, and Grief confronted is Grief resolved.

"But if Grief is resolved, why do we still feel a sense of loss on anniversaries and holidays and even when we least expect it? Why do we feel a lump in the throat even six years after the loss? It is because healing does not mean forgetting and because moving on with life does not mean that we don't take part of our lost love with us. Of course, the intensity of the pain decreases over time if we allow Grief to visit us from time to time. But if the intensity remains or if our lives are still dysfunctional years after our loss, we are stuck and in need of professional help to get unstuck.

"Sometimes my old friend Grief sneaks up on me. I'll feel an unexplained but profound sadness that clings to me for days. Then I'll recognize the Grief and cry a little, and then I can go on. It's as though the ones we have lost are determined not to be forgotten. My old friend Grief doesn't get in the way of living. He just wants to come along and chat sometimes.

"Grief has taught me a few things about living that I would not have learned on my own. He has taught me that if I try to deny the reality of a major loss in my life, I end up having to deny life altogether. He has taught me that although the pain of loss is great, I must confront it and experience it fully or risk emotional paralysis. Old Grief has taught me that I can survive even great loss, and although my world is different, it is still my world and I must live in it. He has taught that when I let go, I can flourish again in season and bring forth the good fruit that comes, not in spite of my loss, but because of it."

Both the Old and New Testaments remind us that God has also experienced grief. When God lived among us in Jesus the Christ, he experienced grief. Whenever God's people are unfaithful, God experiences grief. Whenever we are hurt and grief-stricken, God is grieved with us and for us. Be assured that God's grace is sufficient for you and will enable you to grow and flourish through loss and pain.

*Grace and peace,
Tom (Thomas Walker, Pastor)*

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

November 2008

- 2 *31st Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107: 1-7, 33-37;
1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12
- 9 *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-71
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13
- 16 *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123; 1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30
- 23 *Christ the King/Reign of Christ*
Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100; Eph. 1:15-23
Matt. 25:31-46
- 30 *1st Sunday of Advent*
Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80: 1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

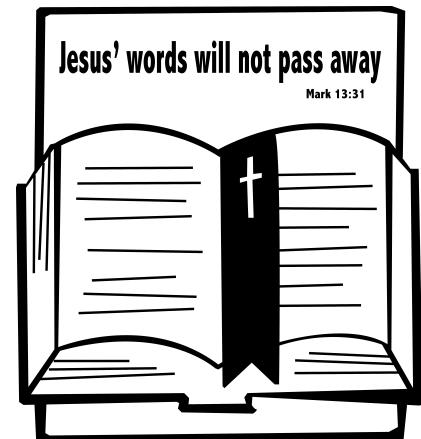


November 2008						
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30						

Church Calendar

November 2008

- 2 Fall Festival
- 4 Committees
- 5 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 6 1st Thursday Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
- 9 Recommitment Sunday
- 11 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Circles
- 13 Dinner with our Jewish friends – 5:45 p.m.
- 14 Meals on Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 18 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Ignatius Catholic – 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Church Office closes at noon
- 27 Thanksgiving – Church Office closed
- 23 Church Office closed
- 30 1st Sunday of Advent - Lord's Supper

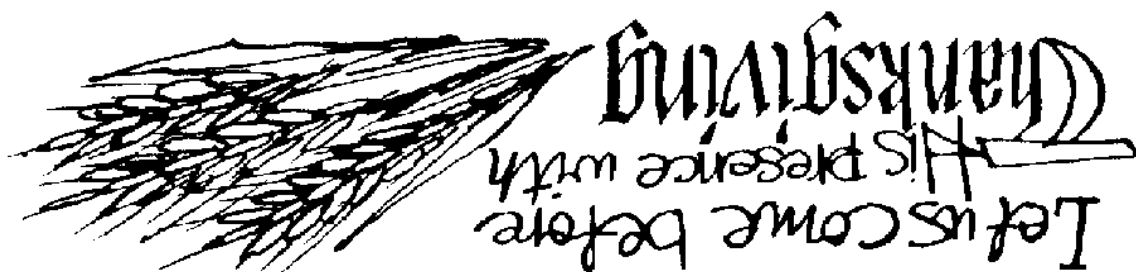


Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and two fat cats overstuffed
with turkey giblets, catnip stuffing and kidney pie on
Thanksgiving Day.



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November Newsletter