

# Spring Hill Messenger

Spring Hill Presbyterian  
Church

## What's in a Name?

**O**rdinary Time. Propers. Season after Pentecost. Trinity. Kingdomtide. Season of Creation. The Sundays in the season stretching between Pentecost and Advent go by many names and they're all correct, in one way or another.

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter (about half of the Christian year) are known as festival times, given over to special observances connected to the life of Jesus. The rest of the year is, for want of a better word, non-festival. In 2008 it is one of the longest in church history because Easter was so early. Over the centuries a variety of names and ways of keeping track of these Sundays has arisen:

- **Ordinary Time** – These Sundays are not “ordinary” in the regular sense of the word, but rather as in “ordinal numbers.” Ordinary Time simply means that the Sundays get counted, without being connected to any festival.
- **Propers** – Similar in meaning to Ordinary Time, “proper” means a Sunday in its own (or proper) right, without being called by a festival name such as Lent 2 or Easter 3.
- **Season after Pentecost or Trinity** – This system simply counts the weeks after Pentecost Sunday (the last day in the Easter season) or Trinity Sunday (the week after).
- **Kingdomtide** – In the 1950s this was a suggestion for the second half of the season, starting in September, to break up the long block of Sundays. As the name suggests, it intended to focus on the reign of God. The idea didn't really take.
- **Season of Creation** – This began in Canada in the 1960s, died out for a while, but has come back with impetus from Australia. It is a six-week observation in September and October. To learn more, go to [www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com).


It doesn't really matter what we call these days. God is just as present in the plain and ordinary.

God is with us always.

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September 2008

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## A Note from Pastor Mark...

 I have spent a good portion of my time lately reading the works of the great spiritual writers. The reading has been extremely rewarding. One day I read Thomas Merton and the subject was contemplation. On another day I read A. W. Tozer and his thoughts that came from possessing nothing.

A few days ago, I stumbled upon an unknown writer. Karl Rahner (1904-1984), an instrumental architect of the Second Vatican Council, wrote an intriguing piece about the lives we have lived at times. Rahner wrote many books and even more articles. The following is a small selection of his writing found in *Encounters with Silence*.

*I should like to bring the routine of my daily life before You, O Lord, to discuss the long days and tedious hours that are filled with everything else but You.*

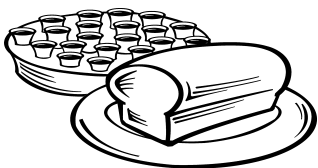
*Look at this routine, O God of Mildness. Look upon us men (and women), who are practically nothing else but routine. In Your loving mercy, look at my soul, a road crowded by a dense and endless column of bedraggled refugees, a bomb-packed highway on which countless trivialities, much empty talk and pointless activity, idle curiosity, and ludicrous pretensions of importance all roll forward in a never-ending stream.*

*When it stands before You and Your infallible Truthfulness, doesn't my soul look just like a market place where the second-hand dealers from all corners of the globe have assembled to sell the shabby riches of this world? Isn't it just like a noisy bazaar, where I and the rest of mankind display our cheap trinkets to the restless, milling crowds?*

Those words certainly spoke to me. They were honest, direct, and thought-provoking. In many ways, I must admit that I have wrestled lately with the point behind what we do in the church. Karl Rahner spurred the reflection. Of course we are here to worship God and bring glory to His name. But what about all the rest of things we do at church? Are they of any value in the grand scheme of things? Have our discussions produced fruit? Has there been a yield or a harvest? I find it quite easy to get wrapped up in the activities of the church and spend many an hour maintaining it, but is maintenance our focus? Rahner seems to ask me as a Christian whether I want to invest my time on watering a plant or growing a seed, cleaning a fish or catching one, staying in the boat or walking on the water.

It does not take me long to answer where I would like to spend my time. Rahner, however, does not just ask me. He has asked the church as well. As we begin another new school year with many fall activities beginning, where will we place our time and energy and what will be the final yield of our efforts in those areas where we invest our energies? Will there be a harvest, or will this just be another year filled with the Tigers and the Tide, carpools and committee meetings, Thanksgiving plans and Christmas holidays?

May God bless you in the coming days.  
Pastor Mark



*The Lord's Supper will be celebrated  
in worship on Sunday, September 7.*



**Soar!**

with the SHPC  
Children's Choirs

**Kick-off on Sunday, Sept. 7, 4:30 – 6:00**

**Games, Food, And Fun**

*Rehearsals begin on Sunday, Sept. 14, 5:00-6:00*

Angel Choir --Age 4 by Sept. 1, 2008 and Age 5

Carol Choir---Grades 1-2

Junior Choir--Grades 3-6

Junior Handbells- Grades 3-6 (4:30 rehearsal)

# Sing Christ!!



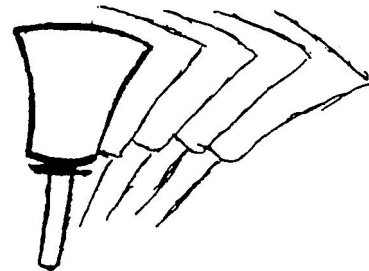
## Youth Music Grades 7-12

**Youth Chorale**  
Sundays 5:00-6:00 (begins Sept. 7)

### Youth Handbells

Tuesdays (begins Sept. 9)

Contact Randy Sheets at the church for information.  
rsheets@springhillpresbyterian.org



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### **Needed--Children's Church Song Leaders**

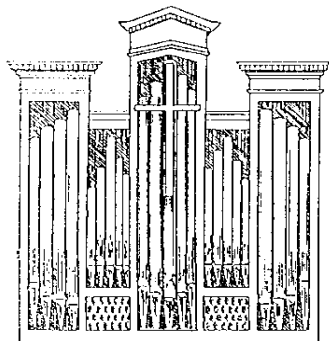
Join the team of youth and adults that informally leads children in 3-4 songs at the beginning of children's church on Sundays. The music is selected ahead of time by Susan Hoitt, who also arranges the schedule (this is *not* a commitment for every week). HEARTFELT THANKS to last year's helpers: Alexandra and Samantha Fry, Brooke Barnes, Katie and Leigh Hoitt, Lindsay Sheets, and Ashley Wikle. "Make a Joyful Noise!" contact Susan Hoitt @ 342-1550, ext. 12 or 675-1044.

- **Chancel Choir is open for membership.** Join our singing community. Everyone who can carry a tune and learn harmony parts is welcome (*music reading ability is very helpful*). Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7 pm – 9 pm. Contact Randy Sheets to join.
- **Spring Hill Ringers---** *Handbells* for music-reading adults. Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00. Contact Randy for membership information.
- **Basics of Reading Music (for adults).** *Taught by Randy Sheets.* Learn the basics of reading music, which can be applied to singing or to any instrument. The schedule for this class, dependent on the membership of the class, is projected to consist of four one-hour sessions, days/times to be arranged. Contact Randy Sheets at the church if you are interested.

# Birthday Organ Concert

By Randall Sheets  
Including the Chancel Choir

With organ and choral music by Anniversary Composers  
Buxtehude, Distler, Vaughan Williams, and Messiaen  
also music by J. S. Bach and César Franck



Thursday, October 30  
7:00 p.m.

## Library News

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Calvin's birth. In honor of this event Witherspoon Press in Louisville has produced a 60 minute documentary entitled "John Calvin: His Life and Legacy."

This DVD is on order and will become a part of the church library collection once it is processed.

If you or your class would like to be put on a notification list, contact the librarian.

Calvin is regarded as a figure of significant importance in the history of the Christian church and Western Civilization.



## Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 a.m. Please make reservations on the bulletin tear-off or call the church office (342-1550).

## Blood Drive

Put on your calendar now! Our semi-annual Blood Drive will be on Sunday, October 12 following 11:00 a.m. worship.

## Presbyterian Women News

2008-09 activities for Presbyterian Women begin September 3 with the meeting of the Coordinating Team at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference room.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, September 10 as follows:

- #1 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Sylvia Weinard (1601 Woodspointe Circle)
- #2 TBA
- #3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor
- #4 at 7:15 in the Parlor



The Presbytery of South Alabama Fall Leadership/Spiritual Retreat for Women is Saturday, September 6, 9:00 – 2:30- at Pinetreat. Ellen Jones will be leading worship with piano and singing, and Susan Boone will speak on her mission work in China. Registration forms are on the PW bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$15.00. All women are invited.

All circles will gather on Wednesday, October 8 when the Honorary Life member will be honored at a luncheon and the Thank Offering will be received. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon reservations may be made through circle chairpersons or the church office.

### Other dates:

- March 19 - PW annual Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian in Foley
- May 13 – Officer Installation and Birthday followed by dinner
- July 11-15 - Churchwide Gathering for Presbyterian Women in Louisville
- July 21-24 - AL/MS Women's Conference

If you are not involved in Presbyterian Women (PW), this is your opportunity to do so. There are four circles (groups) in our church that meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month (one at night). Each circle is unique in their commitments to our church and community, but share common bonds of study and participation in PW and fellowship.

**Circle #1** collects food items and paper goods for the Ronald McDonald House food pantry as well as cleaning and laundry supplies to assist the guest residents. Co-chairs are Mary Hazen Braswell and Janie Sims.

**Circle #2** – Mulherin Home (1) Host two parties (Christmas and Easter Egg Hunt) each year (2) assist with projects when requested and (3) collects household items for residents when needed. They also correspond and send cards and goodie boxes to college students. Co-chairs are Corinne March and Nancy McCrummen.

**Circle #3** decorates the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter and delivers plants to shut-ins on Valentine's Day. They also help defray the cost of outdoor plantings at the church. Chair is Cassie Steele.

**Circle #4** meets at night, and is co-chaired by Ellen Pitman and Maxine Miller. They collect funds for the Presbyterian Home for Children at Christmas.

**For more information, contact the circle chairpersons.**

## Stewardship

Recently Dr. Mark Mueller spoke about taking risks to further our faith. This, he said, necessitated getting away from our comfort zones and traveling less familiar roads in order to be closer to God and fulfill His desires for our lives. It required stepping out of the box. God, he pointed out, has a habit of asking people to do risky things

Giving back to God His tithe in uncertain economic times is a perceived risk. We must remember that God said "Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10). This is the only time in the Bible He said "Test me".

We can confront our feelings of risk through the faith and courage that things will not worsen, and probably will be better. Life by its very nature rejects protectionism. It rewards risk that is based on faith, perseverance and courage. Making a decision to increase our pledges or to tithe takes faith and courage. This is faith that our gifts will be used wisely. It is faith that we all grow through this act in our relationship to God. It is part of our relationship with our Father that we take this leap of faith and find the courage to trust God. We do this by giving back a relatively small portion of that which has been given to us in abundance. We do this solely through gratitude, faith and courage.

We are behind in the collection of our pledges 8% year-to-date (approximately \$90,000). As the size of our budget increases, it is very important for the proper management of our church operations that we stay current with expected receipts. As of July 31, 2008, \$593,024 has been collected against our pledged budget of \$1,175,982.

Yours faithfully,  
Gordon Mowry

### FINAL CALL FOR COOKBOOK RESERVATIONS!

As of this newsletter, we have not had enough reservations to warrant a second printing of "Blessings," our church cookbook. However, the committee will continue to accept reservations until September 20<sup>th</sup> before it makes a final decision. If you would like to reserve a copy of "Blessings" please email [springhillcooks@bellsouth.net](mailto:springhillcooks@bellsouth.net) or contact the church office (342-1550).



### Table grace

We thank you, God,  
for happy hearts,  
for rain and sunny weather.  
We thank you, God,  
for this our food,  
and that we are together.

Worship does not exist for God's sake but for ours. God has no need of human worship. It is we who need to demonstrate our gratitude for what we have received.

— St. Thomas Aquinas

## Service Committee

This month we will highlight The Presbyterian Home for Children. Sue Martino is our liaison for this agency.

The Presbyterian Home for Children is a non-profit Christian caring community for children and families in need located in Talladega, Alabama. Following the Civil War, members of the Presbyterian Church in Alabama recognized the need to provide food and shelter for orphaned children. Since that time, the Home has transformed itself into a well-respected educational facility.

As federal and state funding for group homes for children has declined, the Presbyterian Home has used its skill and experience to develop on-site and outreach programs for children and families. Their on-campus school, Hope Academy, serves their residents as well as private day and residential students. Their Presbyterian Center provides counseling services to children and families and houses their ADHD Clinic.

Spring Hill Presbyterian has historically supported the Presbyterian Home for Children through our benevolences budget. More recently, the Memorial Scholarship Fund has been able to support a number of their residents enrolled in classes at the local community college.

### Mission Statement

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees, May 13, 1988)

*The Presbyterian Home for Children, recognizing the changing needs of children and families, and responding to the call of Jesus Christ to be agents of reconciliation, does hereby covenant, in reliance upon the Grace of God, to provide a ministry of comprehensive programs and services to individuals and families in order that they might become the fully functional persons whom God created them to be.*


*We further covenant to treat each individual in need with dignity, and to bring all our resources to bear in the healing process.*

On the web: [www.phfc.com](http://www.phfc.com)



### Calendar of Events

- September 13** Building on Faith with Habitat for Humanity  
Assist building a new home in the Hillsdale Community  
Contact Chris Pennington 251-709-2000
  
- October 12** Red Cross Blood Drive
  
- October 25** Service Center Wine Festival at 5 Rivers  
Contact [marcyharris@bellsouth.net](mailto:marcyharris@bellsouth.net)



It's a party for the people of God's creation;  
Let's call it our CE Celebration!  
On September the 7<sup>th</sup> we'll begin the new year;  
We'll have breakfast and coffee and plenty of cheer.  
So come and eat and celebrate;  
9:30 a.m. is the time - so don't be late!

You're invited to  
CE Celebration!  
Sunday, September 7th  
Bullard Building  
9:30 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m. we will gather to share a meal together. At 10:00 all youth and children will be dismissed with their teachers to go to their classrooms for a fun activity.

The adults will remain in the gym and hear about the many different Adult CE offerings for the fall from the various Adult CE teachers.

Please make reservations if you plan to attend. Sign up sheets are located in the main hallway on the tables just outside of the Sanctuary doors. You can also make reservations by calling the church office (342-1550).

## From the Adult Christian Education Committee

Dear Members:

We have some exciting things going on in Adult Christian Education these days at Spring Hill Presbyterian, and it dawned on me (or rather it was strongly suggested!) that maybe it would be a good idea to drop everyone a note to let them know! Your Adult CE Committee members have been hard at work developing a varied slate of classes for the Fall and Spring which will hopefully be as enriching and meaningful to all of you as they will be informative. Of course, our core curriculum includes Current Issues; Learning the Living Word; Revised Common Lectionary; Bible Discovery; and Pathfinders. As you can imagine, having such a strong lineup of classes every semester makes our job as a committee a lot easier!

But beyond our core curriculum, we have some new classes and events of which you should be aware. First, given the strong growth of our congregation, we will be reinstituting a new members class in the Parlor, which will be entitled "SHPC--Who Are We?" This class will cover topics ranging from the basics of the Christian faith to the essentials of Presbyterianism, and will also inform our new members and visitors about our congregation and where they can get involved. We want to emphasize that this opportunity will be beneficial to new members and anyone visiting or considering church membership. If you know anyone that fits into these categories, please help them find their way to the Parlor beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>!

The Adult CE Committee will also be sponsoring "A Cup and a Conversation" with our senior pastor, Dr. Norman McCrummen. On the first Sunday of each month (beginning in October) Norman will be available in his office for face to face visits with visitors or anyone considering church membership. It is our prayer that this opportunity will give our visitors a chance to really get to know our pastor and our church. Coffee will be served.

Also, Christopher Jones will be teaching a new class, entitled "Current Scriptures." This class will cover a new and different passage from various books in the Old and New Testament each week, and will focus on teaching our members not only the substantive lessons from the passages themselves, but also a deeper appreciation for the memorization of scripture and incorporation of its lessons into their lives.

Seven classes--all covering different topics, in different ways, and yet all deeply rooted in the Bible. You can find out more about these classes in the GOLD Catalogue (which will be out in a few weeks), or you can call me or any member of the Adult CE Committee, or even the teachers of these classes, to discuss. However you decide, we urge all of you to find your place in Christian Education here at Spring Hill, whether it is as a teacher or student.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the CE Celebration on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can get here, we'll get you fed – physically and spiritually! It's going to be a great year!

God Bless,  
Robbie Turnipseed  
Chair, Adult CE

## Supper Clubs

Sign up for Next Year

Supper Clubs are a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation. They are groups of no more than 10 people who meet on a regular basis to enjoy fellowship and a meal. Each year persons who want to be in a Supper Club are assigned to a different group so that they can become better acquainted with other Church members. Don't delay... Join today!!! You will be glad that you did. If you have questions, please call Marcia Auttersen (660-1727) or Margaret Mowry (634-0093).

**Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Sunday, September 21.**

**Supper Club Sign Up Sheet**  
**(Due by 9/21)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate #: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE NOTE:

*Even if you are currently in a supper club,  
you must sign up again.*



**We will return to our regular  
schedule on Sunday, September 7:  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship  
9:30 Christian Education Classes.**

Editors: Dan and Laura Sellers and a catnip barbecue with Ti Amo and Al E. Cat on Labor Day.

**Please note: new email addresses for the editors:**

**Dan: [dansel251@att.net](mailto:dansel251@att.net)  
Laura: [512handbells@att.net](mailto:512handbells@att.net)**





We rejoice with Robert and Lena Weaver in the marriage of their son, Reggie to Ashley-Anne Masters on August 3 in Montreat, NC.



We rejoice with Chris and Danielle Pennington in the birth of a son, Matthew Jacob on July 29; with Jim and Nancy Adams in the birth of a granddaughter, Elise Ramona Adams on August 4 in Brookville, WI. (Parents are Jim and Heather Adams); and with Sam and Judy Strada in the birth of a granddaughter, Mary Evelyn Bullock, on August 12 in Houston (Parents are Jeff and Rochelle Bullock).



death shall  
no longer  
have  
dominion

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the family of Genie Hart in her death on July 25.

## Honoraria

*Honoraria have been received for  
Royce and Pat Ray*

*From the following:*

Edith Cox  
John and Julie Root  
Mr. and Mrs. George Waldron

## Memorials

*Memorials have been received  
for the following:*

John Gilbert  
Dr. Robert Mowry  
Hap Jernigan  
Marc Jernigan

*From the following:*

Brenda and Farrell Jones  
Sylvia and Joseph Ryder  
Billy and Sue McLean  
Mike and Nancy Hofto  
Bruce and Barbara Maynard

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

– Romans 12:2, *The Message*

# Lectionary for the Lord's Day

September 2008

- 7 *23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Exod. 12:1-14; Ps. 149; Rom. 13:8-14  
Matt. 18:15-20
- 14 *24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Exod. 14:19-31; Ps. 114 or  
Exod. 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35
- 21 *25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Exod. 16:2-15; Ps. 105: 1-6, 37-45;  
Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-6
- 28 *26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16;  
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32



September 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	30				

## Church Calendar September 2008

- 1 Labor Day—Church office closed
- 2 Committees
- 3 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team – 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Presbyterian Women's Fall Spiritual Retreat at Pinetreat
- 7 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship—Lord's Supper  
CE Celebration Breakfast – 9:30 a.m.  
Men's Bible Study – 5:00 p.m.
- 9 Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.  
Diaconate – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Beginning of Women's Bible Study (9:15 – 11:30 a.m.) and continuing each  
Wednesday through November 19  
Circles  
Beginning of Wednesday Dinners (5:45 p.m.) followed by  
Bible Study with Dr. Mueller
- 12 Meals-on-Wheels – 10:30 a.m.
- 12-13 Men's Conference with Brad McClain  
(Friday 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. – Noon)
- 15 Newsletter Deadline – 9:00 a.m.
- 16 Session – 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Yeoman Work Day
- 28 Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons  
in the Class of 2011 – 11:00 a.m. service  
Photograph of all officers actively serving in 2009 following 11:00 a.m. worship



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*September  
Newsletter*