

“REMEMBERING GOVERNMENT STREET”

by Terry D. Maddox, M.M.

Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries

The Sunday Morning Series, an alternate Sunday school hour offered by the Christian Education Department, will welcome Mr. Robert Rouse, a Mobile lawyer (and GSPC member) April 26th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mr. Rouse will speak on the subject of Estate Planning and Endowments. All are welcome to attend.

It is amazing to me that lately, when conversing with colleagues in other houses of worship, I hear that their churches are doing well. Even in this time of economic recession. Thankfully, Government Street Presbyterian Church is hanging in there as well. We are a remarkably giving congregation and are blessed with many ways to express the gifts the church receives.

Endowments to GSPC have been and continue to be a significant component in the church's annual budget. That members and loved ones choose to make this special type of remembrance contributes to many daily ministries and enables special programs that otherwise might not be financially possible. One example is the Memorial Lecture Series, a two day event that usually happens in October with a guest lecturer and several fellowship meals for the congregation and friends.

Another example is the ability for the music department to hire additional orchestral musicians to complement special worship services throughout the year. Allocations from contributions made to the Music Enrichment Fund cover musician fees. Last year we dedicated our Reiger-Kloss organ to the memory of Mrs. Thelma Bodie in a beautiful service attended by her husband, Mr. Belin Bodie. Another memorial contribution made possible the reviving and continuance of our Seminary Intern ministry. Andy King is the second seminary student GSPC has welcomed and fully immersed into the daily work of urban ministries and our unique brand of central theological worship and liturgy. It is a rare program in our denomination and a valuable opportunity for those embarking upon the challenging life of ministry.

As your church's professional musician, it is my hope that the Music Enrichment Fund continues to bloom. If so, funds could be used to replace some of our hard-worked

and aging fleet of pianos; and our handbells and choir chimes could be maintained and upgraded as needed. I would love to see us expand one day to include an Accompanist/Assistant Organist for our Sanctuary Choir and choral programs so that I could conduct our ensembles directly and more often. We have a magnificent organ—one that could be a tremendous instrument of worship and praise not only for our congregation but for our community. It would be fabulous to have an Organ Concert Series, or an annual or semi-annual Organ Concert. There are many wonderful works for orchestra and organ that, if funding were available, could afford us the opportunity to open our house of worship to the community as a concert venue for the Mobile Symphony Orchestra. I may be dreaming a little, but at one time we had a harpsichord that was used for worship. Perhaps such an instrument could again be acquired.

And then there are our extension programs. The Mobile Community Chorus is an active and growing voice on the choral concert circuit that is housed and supported by GSPC. Many friends become acquainted with our church through this music program, and some are later welcomed into membership here. The Boys & Girls Club Honor Choir Program of Lower Alabama invites these talented youth to rehearse at GSPC weekly during the school year and provides concert venues in which to perform several times a year. The church's partnership with this program has opened doors for all involved, and we will hopefully continue this nurturing relationship for years to come.

In addition to Robert Rouse's discussion on April 26, please mark your calendars with the following concert events for the spring:

- April 26, 5:00 p.m.
Spring Hill College Choir
- April 28 and 30th (Tuesday and Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.
The Eastern Shore Choral Society
- May 17 (Sunday) at 7:00 p.m.
The Mobile Community Chorus
- June 23 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.
The Mobile Community Chorus

See inside for concert details.

Pax!

Pilgrimage to Israel
Journey to the land of the Bible
February 2-11, 2010



hosted by Dr. Joseph L. Johnson
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
1103 N. Pontiac Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 792-7898 / Fax: (334) 792-3160
email: joseph@evergreenpres.net

Trip itinerary includes:

- The ruins of Caesarea
- Mt. Carmel
- Megiddo, the "Hill of Battles"
- Private boat ride around the Sea of Galilee
- Peter's Home in Capernaum
- Mount of the Beatitudes
- Upper Galilee to Banias (Caesarea Philippi) to see the source of the Jordan River and the site of Peter's confession "...you are the Christ" (Matt. 16:18)
- Mt. Gilboa and the Harod Spring
- The Dead Sea
- Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found
- Visit Masada, a natural fortress with ruins
- Bethlehem
- Walk down the Mount of Olives to the site of Jesus' Agony
- Church of Pater Noster
- The Garden of Gethsemane
- Enter the Christian Quarter of the Old City through the Lion Gate
- The Pool of Bethesda
- Walk the Way of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Mt. Zion and visit King David's Tomb and the Last Supper Room
- Enter the Jewish quarter of the Old City through the Zion Gate for a walking tour
- Walk down the stairs to the Western Wall
- The Davidson Center
- The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial
- The Israel Museum
- The Garden Tomb

Please contact Evergreen or Denise Lamby (434-9327) for a full itinerary and registration forms.

Christian Education

Kara Olson
Director of Youth & CE

- **Sunday Morning Series**
April 26, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
"Estate Planning and the GSPC Endowment Funds"
Robert Rouse will give an overview of the current federal estate tax rules and how to make GSPC a part of your estate plan through the recently updated GSPC Endowment Funds.
- **PYC**
 - **Sunday School** ~April 19 we are beginning Exodus.
 - **Youth Sunday** ~ Come for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then our run-through of Youth Sunday.
- **Confirmation Retreat** Saturday, April 25 at Baytreat. Remember to be working on your workbooks.
- May 1st is **Parents' Night Out!** This is a Montreat Fundraiser. Arrive at 4:45 p.m. to prepare.

Amanda Murray
Director of Children's Ministries

- The children will be back in **regular Sunday school** classes beginning April 19th.
- **Parenting in Faith:** All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend a Sunday School Class just for Parents during the month of May when Ryan Jensen and Amanda Murray will team-up to talk about Parenting in Faith—look for more details to come.
- **Parents' Night Out** is set for May 1 at 5:00 p.m. Drop your children with us for free fun while you go have some child-free fun!
- The children are continuing to raise money and awareness about the Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery. To date, they have collected over \$800. Please continue to support their mission project.
- **Let Your Light Shine** ~Each month the children will learn a new scripture, song, and prayer.
Scripture: Mark: 16:6-7
Song: Praise Him
Prayer: *O dear Jesus, let the butterfly be a reminder to me of your resurrection from the dead. Let it remind me that I will rise too. Let it remind me that I will live with you in Heaven forever. Let it remind me to praise you, always! Amen.*
- **Vacation Bible School ~ Crocodile Dock**
Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light
June 8-12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ages 3 to completed 5th grade
\$5.00 registration fee, t-shirt included
You may mail in your registration, place it in Amanda Murray's box in the office or online.
Check out our VBS website at <http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/VBSGSPC> for information on VBS and volunteering.

Congregational Life

Congratulations to Chris and Garrett (Hixon) Chase on the birth of their daughter, Carson Caroline Chase. Carson was born on April 4, in Camden, North Carolina.

Christian sympathy is extended to Ryan Jensen and his family on the death of his grandmother, Minnie Eliza Segroves, on April 12. She was 95 years old.

Festival of Flowers

There were three GSPC angels who decorated the cross for this event: Allison Peebles, Joy Gardner, and Betsy Otts. The cross was on display at Providence Hospital for the Festival from March 25-29.



Congregational Directories Are Ready!

For the next two Sundays, directories will be available for pick-up in the Foyer by the Jackson St. entrance. After that, please stop by the office to get yours.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. April 26th, May 17th, 24th, and 31st are currently available.

Lectionary Readings for April 19:

Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Music Ministries

Spring Concerts

- April 26 (Sunday) at 5:00 p.m.—**Spring Hill College Choir presents** Sounds of Spring From the Hill, Spring Hill College, St. Joseph Chapel.
- April 28 and 30th (Tuesday and Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.—**The Eastern Shore Choral Society's** 17th Annual Spring Concert featuring John Rutter's *Requiem* and Broadway Hits, at Fairhope First Baptist Church, 300 South Section Street.
- May 17 (Sunday) at 7:00 p.m.—**The Mobile Community Chorus presents** John Rutter's *Requiem* and a Hoagy Carmichael Medley at Spring Hill College, St. Joseph Chapel.
- June 23 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.—**The Mobile Community Chorus presents** *A Patriotic Celebration of Song* at Spring Hill College, St. Joseph Chapel.

Invite Your Neighbor to Join Us for Worship and Lunch on Sunday, May 3

Guests and visitors are always welcome! On May 3rd, the Evangelism and Membership Committee will host a special welcome with our spring "Invite a Neighbor Luncheon."

This provides an excellent opportunity to extend an invitation to Christian fellowship to new and old friends who may be seeking a church home.

After worship, members and guests are invited to lunch in Fellowship Hall (\$5 for members, no cost for guests) where there will be music and a short presentation from the World Mission Committee on the work of our missionaries abroad. Everyone will receive a special invitation that day to gather again at the home of Bill and Leslie Cutts on May 29, for a silent auction that will benefit our missionary families.

Presbyterian Women

April Circle Meetings

Circle 1~Monday, April 20,
10:30 a.m., GSPC Parlor

Correction ~hostess Dibber Lutz

Mark your calendars!

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering!
Tuesday, May 19

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Lunch in Fellowship Hall afterward

The Least Coin Offering will be received.

Urban Ministries

Family Promise of Coastal Alabama Spring Fundraiser

"Dancing with the Clergy"

Friday, April 24, 2009 ~ 6:30 p.m.
Dauphin Way United Methodist Church

*Tickets are \$25 each or \$200 per
table of 9. Front row*

"Heart of Gold" table - \$500

For more information call 441-1991
or email hmlfamilypromise@bellsouth.net

IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson

Somerby of West. Mobile: Kitty Harris

Gordon Oaks: Thyrza Jones (room 239), Harriet Norville (room 241)

Cogburn (Dauphin Con.): Winnie Counts, and David and Betty Mechler

Mercy Medical: Mary Knox Middleton

If you would like to be added or removed from this list please contact Denise Lamby at 434-9323 or denise@gspcmobile.org. Thank you!

**GREEN NEWSLETTER OPTION
NOW AVAILABLE!**

The office staff of GSPC would like to offer an on-line version of this weekly newsletter to those of you who would prefer an e-mailed version instead of a paper copy.

Please e-mail: laura@gspcmobile.org if you would like to make this change. Thank you!

World Mission

**Silent Auction Benefit for our Missionary Families
Save the date! Friday, May 29th**

The World Mission Committee of GSPC will host a **silent auction** at the home of Bill and Leslie Cutts on Friday, May 29.

The committee is currently seeking gifts, talents, and items for the auction. Examples include art, handmade crafts, meals, travel, vacation stays, air and water outings, etc. Please consider your participation in the giving and receiving of this event as we seek to raise much needed funds for our families in mission; Dan and Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar and Frank and Nancy Dimmock in Lesotho.

Please contact Ryan Jensen (434-9329) or Donna Misra (626-6823) with your ideas and contributions. Thank you to the Cutts for their generosity in hosting this important event!

Art Work Needs a Ride!

Is anyone driving to Atlanta and back to Mobile during the next month? A friend of our church is donating a painting for the Silent Auction and a free ride for the painting would save on shipping expenses.

Please contact the church office at 432-1749 if you are making the trip and have available space. Thank you!