

www.gspcmobile.org \* (251)432-1749 \* 300 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602

## Power in a Story

by Rev. Ryan Jensen

Director of Discipleship Formation

*“With instant messages and e-mail, younger generations have learned to be concise, witty, and blunt. We can repeat sound bites with ease. But many people crave to have time and space to draw out a story, to be able to tell the strange and wonderful ways that God has worked in their lives...There is power in a story.” H*

Youth Sunday took place last Sunday, April 26. On that day high school seniors spoke of their hopes, plans, and faith with relation to the central passage of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (*For everything there is a season...*) Parents later spoke of their own hopes, in addition to memories and the meaningful ways in which their children have, over the years, become plugged into the life of Government Street Presbyterian Church. The power of storytelling was unmistakable that day.

Youth Sundays usually provide very good opportunities to tell these kinds of stories. No matter the skill or “dynamic nature” of the regular preacher, youth always catch life from a different perspective. They are asked to talk about their faith as well as their inner most being during a time when their lives are in the midst of drastic change. Friendships, addresses, and basic ways of living will soon change. While the love of parents will never change, the distance and the topics of conversation do. As a result, youth and parents tend to be very honest and emotional on days like Youth Sunday. I have always been grateful for that.

*Youth Sunday* now transitions into *Invite a Neighbor Sunday* and the significance surrounding the proximity of these two events should not be missed. On one hand, the latter of these happenings can be

viewed as just another day where there are tasks to be accomplished within a definite time frame. Sketching out such a time frame, our day could look like this: *Go to church and hope for a pre-noon postlude... Be among the first in line when filing into the fellowship hall for lunch... Eat and be out of the building by 12:40.* Perhaps this is a rather silly progression but then again, we are very busy people with much on our plates. This is where the “on the other hand” option comes in for consideration.

*Invite a Neighbor Sunday* centers around a meal that is to be shared and enjoyed. Unlike the grab and go of the fast-food world where we can finish our lunch before ever getting out of the car, this Sunday will be about slowing down...if only for an extra few minutes or so. Moreover, Sunday will be a time to sit down with both members and guests when we can further discover the power of story telling. This is where we need to take clues from the youth of our church who recently shared their stories with us. Following their lead, we all (older adults, younger adults, and youth alike) should feel the freedom to discuss the things about which we are most excited, hopeful, and/or anxious. We should feel the freedom to talk about that which makes the church and our faith exciting. We might even feel bold enough to tell a little about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There is power in a story, but stories need telling. What is yours? What is that of another? If *Youth Sunday* serves as a clue of what is to come, this Sunday’s worship and luncheon will be well worth your investment of time. With contributions from your neighbor, family member or friend, there will be all the more to share.

# Christian Education

**Kara Olson**  
Director of Youth & CE

## Montreat

The Montreat Parent Meeting will be May 17th after church in the Fellowship Hall. The final payment is due at the parent meeting.

Friday, May 1 is our final Montreat fundraiser, Parent's Night Out. Please be at the church at 4:45 p.m.

## Confirmation

This Sunday, May 3, the confirmands will meet with their mentors and George in the fellowship hall for examination. Have your faith statement ready by this meeting. Confirmation takes place on May 10th during worship.

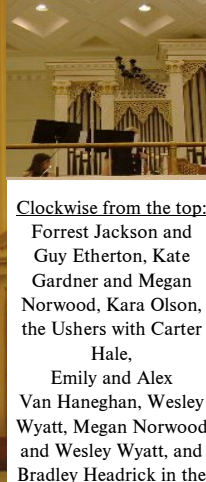
## PYC

Sunday School This Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
Our end of the year lock-in will happen May 22nd at Baytreat. Meet at 5:30 p.m. in the church parking lot!

**Amanda Murray**  
Director of Children's Ministries

- **REGISTER NOW!!!! 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 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 [www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/VBSGSPC](http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/VBSGSPC) for more information.
- **PARENTS NIGHT OUT** ~ May 1st at 5:00 pm.  
Take this time to drop your children with us while you go have some child free fun!
- **Parenting in Faith:** All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend a Sunday School Class just for Parents the first four Sundays in May when Ryan Jensen and Amanda Murray will team up to talk about Parenting in Faith. All who are interested in this class are invited to Fellowship Hall this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
- The children are continuing to raise money and awareness about the **Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery**. So far they have raised over \$900.00. Please continue to support their mission project.
- **Let Your Light Shine** ~ Each month the children will learn a new scripture, song, and prayer. With these new tools each month they

**Youth Sunday 2009**  
The final run-through on



Clockwise from the top:  
Forrest Jackson and Guy Etherton, Kate Gardner and Megan Norwood, Kara Olson, the Ushers with Carter Hale,  
Emily and Alex Van Haneghan, Wesley Wyatt, Megan Norwood and Wesley Wyatt, and Bradley Headrick in the

## "A Time For Everything" PYC—2009

*Everything Has Its Time: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

### IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

**Allen Memorial:** Mary Marvin Anderson

**Somerby of West Mobile:** Kitty Harris

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

**Cogburn (Dauphin Connector):** Winnie Counts, and David and Betty Mechler

If you would like to be added or removed from this list please contact Denise at 432-1749 or [denise@gspcmobile.org](mailto:denise@gspcmobile.org). Thank you.

can Let their Light Shine through song, scripture, and prayer. You are encouraged to learn along with them.

**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

# Congregational Life

**Congratulations** to Camille Rebecca Andrews, M.R. and Rusty Andrews' daughter, who will graduate from the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine on May 5.

## Presbytery of South Alabama Spring 2009 Meeting

**Where:** Evergreen Presbyterian Church  
**When:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 9 a.m. ~ 2:30 p.m.  
**Bring:** Open heart and mind, worshipful spirit, notepad, pen/pencil, Bible  
**Cost:** \$7 per person—for lunch—to be paid at

## Presbyterian Women

### 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.

Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Fellowship of the Least Coin, an ecumenical prayer movement, was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India who believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith as they prayed for peace and reconciliation and set aside the least coin of their country as a symbol of that prayer. As coins are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the

## GSPC Members are Encouraged to... Invite a Neighbor Sunday, May 3

Invite a friend/neighbor to worship and join us afterward in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, a presentation on World Mission, and (as always) fabulous food!

### May Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 5 ~ Evangelism & Membership  
Urban Ministry  
Property  
Tuesday May 12 ~ Christian Education  
Mission  
Worship

The **Tuesday Women's Bible Study** will have its **final** meeting for the Spring at Bligh Jones' house on Tues. May 5 at 11 a.m. for Communion and a Salad Luncheon. Please R.S.V.P. to Bligh @ 432-1216.

*Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary  
Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald,  
478-3087, to reserve a date.*

### Lectionary reading for May 3:

Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**National Day of Prayer** ~ May 7, 12 p.m. ~ 1 p.m.

Guest speakers will be Archbishop Thomas Rodi, Rabbi Steven Silberman, and Pastor Debbie Jacobs,

### Included in the May 29 Silent Auction:

Outdoor Fountain  
Jubilee Gift Shop

"Southern High Tea" for Twelve  
Bligh Jones and Martha Tissington

\$200 Credit for Antique Restoration  
Jarrett Callaway

Bread of the Month (for one year)  
Jeff Grill

Island Get-Away: Five days, Four  
nights at Dauphin Island  
The Goodloe Family

to submit donations, please  
contact Donna Misra 680-1244(c),  
626-6823(h). DMAE11@aol.com

*Out of Africa:*

*A Missionary Expedition*

**silent auction...refreshments & cheese...fun & fellow-**

Please join the expedition  
in support of our missionaries:

***Elizabeth & Dan Turk and Nancy & Frank Dimmock***

Friday, May 29 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

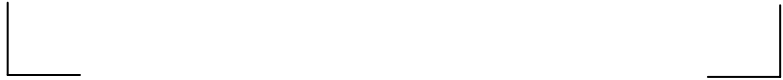
At the home of Bill and Leslie Cutts:

***Twelve Oaks (250 Chatham Street)***

***Advance Tickets: \$15.00 - At the door: \$20.00***

To make reservations now, please detach this form and send to the  
GSPC office with a check payable to GSPC, attn: World Mission Cmte.

**Name(s) of attendee(s):** \_\_\_\_\_



### Dancing with the Clergy

The Family Promise/IHN event last Friday night was a huge success! The six dancing clergy couples danced in turn on the Dauphin Way stage, to beautiful music, clothed in dress appropriate to their particular dance...gowns and tuxedos or hot pink...(the Meringue). **Rev. Ryan and Laura Jensen** were the 2nd couple to sweep across the dance floor in a breath-taking romantic Waltz. Thank you **Martha Hennessy** for providing the GSPC pasta dish of baked ziti and a garden salad. It was delicious!

Teressa Ramsey, Executive Director of Family Promise, expressed her appreciation for **Michon Trent** and the other church IHN coordinators for all of the hard work each of them do to coordinate hosting when the families visit our churches. GSPC's

### Urban Ministries Honored with a Heart of Gold

On Thursday, April 23, Volunteer Mobile, Inc. honored Government Street's Urban Ministries with a Heart of Gold Award. This award recognizes the many volunteers who give their time and talent to our community through their work at Coffee Club, Family Promise, Meals on Wheels, and all our other urban ministry opportunities. Thank you all for making these wonderful ministries a reality!