



GSPC NEWS



ISSUE # 46

November 18, 2009

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

Holiday Rush?

Dr. George R. Sinclair
Pastor

Next Thursday at 10 a.m., worshippers will gather at St. Francis Street United Methodist Church for the annual Thanksgiving Service. For many, Christmas trees will go up the next day. It may be a sign of my age, but Christmas seems to come earlier and faster every year. Our children have already posted grandparent suggestions for Santa on *Amazon*. Two weeks ago I saw eggnog for sale in the grocery — which is a sure sign that coping-with-holiday-stress articles will soon appear in a media outlet near you or on the front page of your church newsletter.

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Numerous hymns have drawn inspiration from Psalm 46. Luther’s *Mighty Fortress* comes to mind.

“Be still . . .”

How can we be still when there’s so much to do? What would a holiday of stillness look like? What would it feel like? Would it look and feel more like attending to rather than doing for others? Might it look more like waiting than rushing? Might it look more like

Sabbath rest than happiness bought?

“Be still . . .”

It’s what your mother told you in church. It is also what the fourth commandment commands. How can we honor the Sabbath without first slowing down and, not just slowing down but stopping altogether, or “cutting out” what seems so irrepressible, so necessary?

“Be still . . . and know that I am God.”

We are still when we stop, literally, when we are physically still. We are still when we listen. And to listen we must first stop talking. We are still when we attend, when we cut out distraction and notice, fully notice, the loud and sometimes disturbingly quiet intersection called Life. When we are still we know God. When we are still we love the people of God. When we are still the world is blest.

“Be still . . . and know that I am God.”

God’s Peace,
George

Worship

Lectionary Readings for November 22:

2 Sam. 23:1-7; Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18)

Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Volunteers this Sunday, November 22

Greeters:	Dot White and Judy Wells
Sunday Assistants:	Hal Jones and Jane Hale
Sanctuary Preparer:	Julia Wells
Usher Captain:	Travis Goodloe
Nursery Volunteers:	Christy and Allan Gustin
Wee Worship Leader:	Margaret Sue Browning
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Charlotte Crockett, 478-1003/591-7902 Dibber Lutz, 473-7582/433-5756

The Lord's Supper will be observed this Sunday, November 22

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal.

Book of Order 4-2.4011

Downtown Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service November 26th

The annual Downtown Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held at St. Francis Street United Methodist Church on Thursday, November 26th, at 10:00 a.m. The church is located at 15 N. Joachim Street. For more information, call 438-1651.

Funerals: Witness To The Resurrection

Sally H. Pearsall, for the Worship Committee

Years ago, services for a death were called Funerals. The casket was usually present – brought in at the beginning of the service and taken out at the end. Have you noticed that most services now for one who has died are called “A Witness to the Resurrection”? And many times, the casket is not present.

Our Book of Order states that plans for a service “should provide for arrangements which are

simple, which bear witness to resurrection hope, and in which the Christian community is central.”

[BOO W-4.1000]

Also, the Book of Order states that our witness to the resurrection is made stronger when the service is held in our usual place of worship. [BOO W-4.1000]

In the section on Form and Order [BOO W-4.1000], the Book of Order calls for hymns, prayers (including The Lord's Prayer), affirmation of faith, assurance of the communion of the saints, and a remembrance of the one who has died.

The service ends with a commendation of the one who has died to the care of the eternal God, sending the people forth with a benediction.

Stewardship

We all are fully aware of how critical Stewardship is to GSPC, but I wanted to share a few thoughts on how it has impacted our children. Just recently, one night before dinner Jack decided that he wanted me to eat at *his* table in the kitchen – he stood up, pulled out *my* chair and asked me to join him. When John and I asked him where he learned such good manners, he replied – Mrs. Treneé, his Sunday School teacher! Since joining the 3-4 year old Sunday School class, he has shared tidbits of Bible lessons he has learned, but this was an added bonus!

Leading up to his first Cherub Choir performance earlier this month, Jack practiced singing *This Little Light of Mine* a lot. We could hear him singing it as he played around the house, and he would even request my voice as we drove to school in the mornings. He was really excited, until he found out singing in church involved a stage. However, when the day came, he stood on the risers and sang. He was so proud of himself! That pride was further cemented by a precious thank you note from a dear member of the congregation – a note which simply thanked him for singing in the Cherub Choir that day. The note made his day!

The lessons that Jack is learning in Sunday School and in the Cherub Choir, and the love that he feels from the congregation remind me of the day he was baptized. That day, the congregation stood and pledged to love and nurture him. What an amazing experience for a parent and how wonderful to see that love each and every Sunday! Thank you! We look forward to the many years ahead for both Jack and Conrad as they grow at GSPC.

– Julie Otts

Christian Education

Youth This Week

**Service – PYC – Thanksgiving Bags for Coffee Club
Sunday, November 22nd PYC**

5:30-7:30 p.m. @ GSPC

We will meet upstairs at 5:30p.m. to begin work on sack lunches for the Coffee Club. Please be sure to bring the item you signed up to bring, so that we will have enough to fill 140 lunch sacks. Youth and families are invited to hand out the Thanksgiving lunch bags on Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00 a.m.

Youth Looking Ahead

***It's HERE!!!! DEADLINE! Deadline! Deadline!!
November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. is the Deadline!***

**All Summer Trips Sign-up & Non-refundable
Deposits are due in to the office!**

- Montreat High School Conference – June 12-19th
- Montreat Middle School Conference - July 21-25th
- Intergenerational Mexico Mission Trip – July 10-17th

*Sorry, we cannot make any exceptions for this deadline date.
Please get your Registration in to hold your place ASAP!*

November 29th – NO PYC – Happy Thanksgiving!!

**December 4th – PARENTS' NIGHT OUT
5:30-9:00pm @ GSPC**

All Youth participating in a summer trip must attend in order to have your trip subsidized by the church.

**December 6th – Progressive Dinner and White
Elephant Christmas Party**

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Please bring a \$5 White Elephant Gift

Christian Education News

- The Christian Education Committee would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Paula Sinclair for her service as chair for the last two years. We will celebrate our appreciation and share fellowship for the holidays at my home on December 8th at 5:30 p.m. Please drop in and let's enjoy the season with one another! – Rev. Kathryn Threadgill
- Youth Committee will gather for fellowship at my home on December 9th at 6:00 p.m. Please join me as I express my gratitude for your willingness to share in the leadership of Youth Ministry at GSPC. – Rev. Kathryn Threadgill

- New Tuesday Morning *West Mobile Men's Bible Study* meets Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at the home of Rudy Nordmann. Breakfast and coffee are provided. This study is offered to men living in West Mobile who are not currently in another study group. Next meeting, November 24th. For more information, call Ryan Jensen at 434-9329 (office) or 300-9531 (cell).

Congregational Life

Meals on Wheels Tuesday Delivery Need Met!

Oren Hilton has volunteered to fill the open position for Tuesday deliveries on the Southern Route of Meals on Wheels. Thank you, Oren!

Music and Fine Arts

Interested in MONTREAT

Music and Worship Conference?

I would like to organize a trip to the 2010 Music and Worship Conference in Montreat next summer. The dates are June 20 through 26. Housing is limited and books very quickly. Therefore, I would like to know of your interest as soon as possible. If there is enough interest, I will rent a house for the week. I need to reserve it no later than January 1, 2010. If you are interested, please contact me at 342-7800 or wanda-lawrence@comcast.net. Thanks.

– Wanda Lawrence

Children's and Cherub Choirs

CDs, scripts, and extra songs have been given to the children for the Children's Christmas Pageant. If you have not received yours and would like to have them (1 of each per family), please let me know as soon as possible. Parts will be assigned on November 22 at rehearsal. Thanks – Wanda Lawrence, 342-7800 or wanda-lawrence@comcast.net.

Upcoming Choir Practice Schedules

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|
| • Cherub Choir | Sun., Nov. 22 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • Children's Choir | Sun., Nov. 22 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • GMBACS | Tues., Nov. 24 | 7:00 p.m. |
| • Sacred Tones* | Sun., Nov. 22 | 12:15 p.m. |
| • Sanctuary Choir* | Sun., Nov. 22 | 12:45 p.m. |

*No practices will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

**Upcoming Holiday Music Events
are listed on this week's newsletter insert!**

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GSPC NEWS (USPC 736150) is published weekly except Thanksgiving and Christmas by GSPC, 300 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602. Periodical: postage paid at Mobile, AL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GSPC NEWS, 300 Government St., Mobile, AL 36602

Children's Ministries

by Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- Stu Bear was so much fun and everyone learned so much. "Thank you" to everyone for your pledges and money for Stewardship. These funds will be added to our mission project for the our mission families in Africa.
- Advent Workshop for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade will begin on Sunday, November 29 during the Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m. Each week until December 13th, the children will learn about Advent through cooking, crafts, and more! They will be combined in the Tent room.
- Advent Devotionals for your children will be sent the week of November 23rd. If you do not receive one before Sunday, November 29th, please let Amanda Murray know.
- **Mark Your Calendars!!!!**
 - **Parents Night Out is set for December 4th (Friday) from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at GSPC!**
 - **Children's Christmas Program will be presented on December 13th, with Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Program at 6:00 p.m.** Tell your family and friends to join us for a spectacular evening.
- **Children's and Cherub Choirs** rehearse at 9:30 a.m.
- Happy Thanksgiving: I am so thankful for every GSPC family. I give thanks for each and every one of you.
- **Sunday School** begins at 10:00 a.m.
- **Family Devotional: November**
 - Scripture: Matthew 6:21
 - Prayer: Thank You for the World so Sweet
 - Song: *Be Careful Little Eyes What You See*
- **Making Time For God: Our GSPC family devotional book.** Question of the week related to this week's devotional in the book: **How many ways to praise God do you know?**