



GSPC NEWS



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

Living The Vision

John N. Leach
Stewardship Chair

About three years ago in the GSPC Stewardship brochure a number of goals were listed so that our church might better accomplish its mission. The brochure stayed away from mentioning dollar amounts, for the true goal of Stewardship is not “making a budget,” but focusing on a Christian’s need to give. Since that time members of this congregation have responded generously to support the goals that were set forth and many of those goals have become realities. There is, however, still much to be done to sustain and broaden our ministry.

We begin our worship service each Sunday by reciting the mission statement adopted last year. That same mission statement is repeated by your officers at the beginning of their monthly meetings and is also used in many committee meetings. This statement is both succinct and all encompassing:

OUR MISSION

*We are called by the Spirit
To glorify God,
So that all may become
Joyful disciples of Jesus Christ*

In order to accomplish our mission, we also focus on the seven habits of disciples – *Prayer, Worship, Bible Study, Service, Fellowship, Tithing, and Testimony.*

During the next few weeks you will hear through Minutes for Mission during worship and Newsletter articles how our Stewardship of time, talent and resources, along with the seven habits of discipleship, will help us accomplish our mission. Following worship on Sunday, November 8, you are invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall, during which we will emphasize how your faithful response to God’s call on our time, talent and resources has led us to where we are now and how we can most effectively use those resources in 2010 to reach out to others. For our usual \$5 person, Shelia will provide a delicious lunch. We will adjourn no later than 1:00 p.m. I think you will be both amazed at and proud of what you hear and

challenged by the opportunities ahead.

You will soon receive in the mail a package of materials which will give you more information about Stewardship and its meaning for each of us individually and as a congregation. You will also receive a card for committing your time, talent and resources during 2010. Sunday, November 15 has been designated as Stewardship Sunday, when we will celebrate God’s goodness to us and joyfully respond with our pledges of time, talent and resources.

Look around you more carefully the next few weeks. Notice the faces at Coffee Club and the gratitude of those to whom you serve Meals on Wheels. Experience the opportunities for learning and fellowship at Circle meetings, Sunday school classes and Bible study groups. Be grateful for the well educated theologians who faithfully proclaim and interpret God’s word for us each week. See the sheer joy on the faces of the children who come forward during the worship hour and the joyful noise in the overflowing Church nurseries. Be moved by the organ’s majestic sounds and the beautiful messages of God’s word through hymns and anthems. Remember the wonderful opportunity we had to hear one of the great theologians at the Memorial Lectures. How can we not say with the psalmist, “*What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?*” (Psalm 116:12)

It has been said that “Stewardship is everything you do after you say ‘I believe.’” This is a time when we remember we are *managers*, not *owners*, of all the Creator has given us. “*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.*” (Psalm 24:1)

In our mission statement we make it clear that we have a vision and we have a purpose. Over the next few weeks let us join in fostering a “**LIVE THE VISION**” culture. Nothing could be more liberating than proclaiming that we – each of us – are children of God, and that in this identity we find comfort, generosity and hope while remembering that it is God who *gave* to us his only Son.

— John

Worship

Lectionary Readings for November 1:

Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 24; Rev. 21:1-6a;
John 11:32-44

Volunteers this Sunday, November 1

Greeters:	Hattie Ogburn, Lisa and Travis Goodloe
Sunday Assistants:	Jay Roberds and Michon Trent
Sanctuary Preparer:	Harriett Felis
Usher Captain:	Don Carlisle
Nursery Volunteers:	Casi and Jarrett Callaway
Wee Worship Leaders:	Laura and Brad Hassell
Office Volunteer:	Nancy Bentley
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Charlotte Crockett, 478-1003/591-7902 Dibber Lutz, 473-7582/433-5756

Service of Healing November 9th

A *Service of Healing and Wholeness* will be observed at GSPC on Monday, November 9. The service is intended for all but especially for those facing or recovering from illness and for their caregivers. Moreover, the service is a witness to reconciliation and the power of forgiveness. Healing is a gift of God through the Holy Spirit. It is not the result of our holiness, earnestness, the skill of those enacting prayer or the faith of those who seek healing. The service begins at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude before 7:00 p.m.

Contact Info for Miroslav Volf

People wishing to write to thank Dr. Miroslav Volf for his October 25th Memorial Lecture Series visit and/or to get on the e-newsletter he mentioned can write him at miroslav.volf@yale.edu. *Dancing for God*, the beautiful and moving sermon preached by Dr. Volf during the Sunday, October 25th worship service, will be available for listening via the service's audio recording. This file will be posted later this week on the GSPC website at www.gspcmobile.org.

Music and Fine Arts

The Cherub Choir will sing in worship Sunday, Nov. 1.

- **Cherub Choir** Sun., Nov. 1 9:30 a.m.
- **Children's Choir** Sun., Nov. 1 9:30 a.m.
- **GMBACS** Tues., Nov. 3 7:00 p.m.
- **Sacred Tones** Wed., Nov. 4 6:00 p.m.
- **Sanctuary Choir** Wed., Nov. 4 7:30 p.m.



2009 Fall Forums

**Dr. Leon Van Dyke Featured Speaker
at November 5th Lunch Forum**

Dr. Leon J. Van Dyke is Chairman of the Department of Dramatic Arts at the University of South Alabama and an experienced professional director with a special interest in improvisation. Lee counts having been an exchange professor in Nigeria as one of his kudos. Lee also has helped administer grants dedicated to developing drama with children. He received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University.

Upcoming 2009 Fall Forum Series Lineup

Dr. Leon Van Dyke, Chairman, Department of Dramatic Arts at the USA – November 5

Kate Johnson, Associate Executive Director, Volunteer Mobile – November 12

David Perry, Special Counsel to the Governor on Federal Stimulus Issues – November 19

Congregational Life

GSPC will field a team in the *YMCA Wing Bowl*, a chicken wing cook-off benefitting the Y's "Kids Need Heroes" campaign. The event is happening this coming Saturday, October 31, from 11:00 - 2:00 in Bienville Square. Everyone is invited to come out to support our cooking team... we also encourage you to *cast your vote*, making GSPC's wings #1 in the event! To obtain free tickets (first come, first served basis), stop by the church office or call Ryan Jensen at 434-9329.

A Thank You from Shalon and Sean Sinclair...

Dear GSPC: Please accept our sincere thanks for the baby shower. Your kindness made welcoming Patrick into the world all the better. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful church family and we appreciate all you mean to us. Sincerely, Shalon and Sean Sinclair.

...followed by A New Sinclair

Congratulations to Shalon and Sean Sinclair on the October 23rd birth of their first child, **Patrick Ciarán Sinclair**. Patrick weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 21 in. long. The proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Rador and Paula and George Sinclair.



Christian Education

Youth This Week

Bible Study

November 1, 2009, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

At the church in the Youth room
Come explore the great commission
of Why God calls us to GO!

Reminder: Dinner provided by the Morrisette Family

Youth Looking Ahead

Pump IT UP! – November 8th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth please do not forget you must have your
permission form signed by a parent/guardian!
You *will not* be admitted into the arena without it!

Sunday November 22nd 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
Inter-generational Mexico Mission Trip – July 10 -17th
*Sorry, we cannot make any exceptions for this
deadline date. So, please get your Registration
in to hold your place ASAP!*

PYC Dinner Sign-Up Reminders

Nov. 1st – Beth Morrisette
Nov. 15th – Sally Ericson
Dec. 13th – The Tamblyn Family
Dec. 20th – Lisa Goodloe

November 22nd Service Project:

Thanksgiving for Coffee Club, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

We will make Thanksgiving bags to give to Coffee Club! Each family please bring a *non-perishable* item such as crackers, tuna, pudding, apples, or snack foods to place in the bags. We will make approximately 150 lunches so it is extremely important to get enough supplies for folks to have something to eat and be thankful for during the holidays! Many thanks in advance for your willingness and generosity in supporting this project!

Christian Education

Reminders for November

- Q & A meeting for the Mexico Trip: November 1st – immediately after worship in Fellowship Hall
- CE Committee meeting: November 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the Frist Room

- Youth Committee meeting: November 11th at 5:30 p.m. in the Frist Room
- Women's Retreat Planning Team meeting: November 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Frist Room

Mexico

Over the past several months, we've been trying to piece together the details and the publicity for this Inter-generational Mexico Mission trip for GSPC. We have been working with the Presbytery's Mayab Partnership Committee and with Gerardo, who is a minister in Mexico. Phone calls and meetings and emails can all get tiresome when you worry about the outcome, the finances, and about whether enough people will invest in participating and taking part in this amazing opportunity. Last week, when trying to glean more information for publicity about the trip, I received a message from Gerardo in which he said: **"WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT YOUR COMING. AND WE ARE PRAYING THAT YOU CAN GET THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR GETTING THIS PROJECT DONE FOR THE GLORY OF OUR GOD."**

Now, "this project" he is speaking of is the opportunity to help a local sister church in Tizimin build a basketball court for the children of the whole community to have somewhere to join in recreation and fellowship. This is such an incredible gift for the children there. It provides a safe place to hangout and share in fellowship together. However, the thing that stood out in Gerardo's message was the fact that this project would be done for "the glory of our God!" It wasn't being done so that we can feel better, so that "these people" who are less fortunate have something, but for the Glory of our God.

We have the chance to encounter "other" in a land that is not our own. We have an opportunity to work beside our brothers and sisters who are, by so many accounts, different from us. Truly most important of all – we have the opportunity to glorify our God!

If you are interested and would like to learn more or register for this opportunity, we will be having a Mexico Meeting this **Sunday, November 1st** immediately following worship in **Fellowship Hall**. Please drop in for a few moments of Q&A with Ryan and me and share in prayer for the glory of God at work in the world.

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Children's Ministries

by Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Where is Stu Bear?** Each week Stu Bear finds a new way to learn about Stewardship. This week Stu Bear is learning about helping. I wonder how Stu Bear can help in the church, community, family, or any other place? Have your answers ready for this Sunday for Mr. George and Mrs. Amanda.
- **Children's and Cherub Choirs** rehearse at 9:30 a.m.
- The **Cherub Choir** sings in worship this Sunday, Nov. 1st.
- **Sunday School** begins at 10:00 a.m.
- **Happy Halloween!** Have a safe and fun Halloween night and remember when walking with your flashlights to "Shine with the Light of Jesus!"
- **Family Devotional: October**
 - Scripture: Psalms 24
 - Prayer: The Green Prayer
 - Song: *This Is My Father's World*
- **Making Time For God: Our GSPC family devotional book.** Question of the week related to a devotional from the same week in *Making Time For God:*
Who is more powerful than any ghost or monster?

Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 1

12:00 Mexico Trip Q & A in Fellowship Hall

Monday, Nov. 2

8:00 Women's Bible Study (Frist)

10:00 PWCT (Parlor)

11:30 All Staff Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Nov. 3

7:00 Coffee Club Bible Study (Parlor)

9:30 Women's Disciple Group (Frist)

5:30 Committee Meetings—Urban Ministries, Property, Evang. & Memb.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

7:00 Men's Morning Bible Study (Frist)

6:00 Men's Disciple Group (Parlor)

Thursday, Nov. 5

7:00 Coffee Club Bible Study (Parlor)

12:00 Lunch Forum—Dr. Leon Van Dyke

Friday, Nov. 6

7:00 Men's Morning Bible Study (Frist)

Sunday, Nov. 8

12:00 Stewardship Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, Nov. 9

6:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness