



GSPC NEWS



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

Opportunities

Rev. Ryan Jensen

Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Discipleship

Upon graduation from college, I returned home to Shelbyville, Tennessee to take a job with a local company. For me, that's all it was; a job. I intended to stay in Shelbyville for about a year before returning to a larger city that had more people and more things to do. As for a career, my plan was to find something in sales. That was the original plan, anyway. I had not been home for very long before the pastor of my home church came calling. He asked if I would help lead the youth group on Sunday afternoons. He later asked if I would work at the church part-time. Later still, I was asked to serve as a fulltime staff member in dividing my duties between youth work and anything else that needed doing. I answered "yes" to all three questions.

It is interesting to wonder how things would have turned out if those questions would have never been asked. Would I still have ended up in the ministry? Would I have ever had the chance to meet my wife, Laura? Would I have remained in Middle Tennessee, returned to Memphis, or wound up somewhere else altogether? These questions are, of course, pointless. As a Calvinist who believes in things of providence and predestination, I take comfort in being where God intends me to be. At the same time, I also know that the Triune God asks all of us to respond to our sense of God's love and to share in that love as disciples of Jesus. In other words, we are not to become lazy or leave things to chance; we are to be active participants in who God calls us to be. It is a mysterious combination of trust in the Spirit, humility and obedience toward Christ, and servant-leadership in God's church. This mysterious combination brings me back to the matter of questions and opportunities.

With attention to evangelism and membership, there are certainly a vast number of questions to consider. Among them: *How do Presbyterians spread the Good News in an orderly*

*and decent way? How assertive or personal should we be in our contact with others? When outside of the church walls, do we actually sing out to others, "May Jesus Christ be praised!" or do we take a much more casual approach? With regard to that approach, what if someone asks a difficult question about our faith, our denomination, or the church in general? These are all good questions to ask within the context of a discussion with a friend, a committee meeting at church, or a conversation with a pastor or another church member. They should not, however, serve as a barrier or hindrance in the actual *doing* of evangelism. It is very likely that we will rather learn as we go.*

There is so much that lies ahead in the life of Government Street Presbyterian Church. Sunday school resumes September 13, Thursday Forums return September 17, and Kathryn Threadgill's installation is set for September 20. Surrounding these dates there will be Sunday school kick-off parties, celebrations, fellowship activities, urban ministry, choir practice, youth events, and worship. All of these things present numerous opportunities to get involved as well as to ask others to become plugged into who we are, what we do, and who we can become together. There are so many questions that are waiting to be asked! Will we ask? Will we respond? My personal experience is this: I am very glad and thankful that a pastor once asked me to become involved in the life of the church. I am also very excited that we have the opportunity to pose that question to others. Trusting in God's plan for God's creation, we must also consider our part as disciples who will ask others to become the same. Together, let's move forward with bold and humble hearts! Who knows how many people are open — and even waiting — to say yes!

World Mission

Mission Successful!

In a recent article in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, William Wood is quoted as saying, "The theocentric character of the Reformed faith sets it over against every ethic of self-realization, against inordinate concern with the salvation of one's own soul, and against excessive preoccupation with the questions of personal identity."¹

With consideration to this focus on God and the ways in which we unselfishly participate as a community of faith, I would like to thank the congregation for its generous response to our missionaries in Africa. Through the Silent Auction and the special offering taken last Sunday, we have exceeded our annual goal of \$15,000 for the work of the Dimmock and Turk families, who serve in Lesotho and Madagascar, respectfully.



How wonderful it was to host Frank Dimmock on the weekend of August 22-23 and to learn of the ways in which he and Nancy are serving the church universal.

Because of your generous response to the power of God's being, a crisis nursery for orphans was able to keep its doors open and its staff and resources funded. Before our gift of \$7,500, Frank confessed that both he and Nancy were considering the burden of a personal loan toward the benefit of these children.

What a joy it was in writing to Dan and Elizabeth Turk, reporting that we are now prepared to send them the other \$7,500 portion of our gift. They are currently communicating with their colleagues about where this aid will best be distributed. In the meantime, Dan asks that we, "Please pray for justice for the people of Madagascar."

The remaining funds from this year's commitment will be applied to our total for next year, which is the second of a three year commitment that GSPC has made to both families. Thank you again to everyone who has so generously shared of their time, resources, and prayers. Your humble and genuine assistance is simply an awesome response to God's awesome love.

Ryan Jensen
Associate Pastor

¹Wood, William. "After seminary: The hazards and joys of Christian ministry." *The Presbyterian Outlook*. 31 August 2009. 15.

Worship

The Lord's Supper will be observed on Sunday, September 6

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

Lectionary Readings for September 6:

Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps. 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Volunteers this Sunday, September 6

Sunday Assistants:	Jarrett Callaway and Becky Ivy
Greeters:	Beth Carlisle, Stova and Marilyn McFadden
Sanctuary Preparer:	Harriett Felis
Nursery and Wee Worship:	Ian and Amanda Murray
Office Assistant:	Nancy Bentley
Usher Captain:	Don Carlisle

Music and Fine Arts

- **GMBACS rehearsal**
Tues., Sept. 8 7:00 p.m.
- **Sacred Tones rehearsal**
Wed., Sept. 9 6:00 p.m.
- **Sanctuary Choir rehearsal**
Wed., Sept. 9 7:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Women

REMINDER: Fall Retreats Sept. 8 and Sept. 12

The GSPC Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering will take place on Tuesday, September 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Kathryn Threadgill will introduce the first lesson in the PW's Bible Study for the coming year. Honorary Life Memberships will be awarded. A Luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office, 423-1749.

The Presbytery PW Fall Retreat will take place on Saturday, September 12 at Stockton Presbyterian Church from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All Presbyterian Women are welcome at both gatherings and invited to become involved in a Circle.

Congregational Life

Fall Forums Series Lineup

- Tom Rue**, Former President of the Maritime Law Association of the United States – September 17
George Talbot, Political Editor, Mobile Press Register – September 24
Mark Davidson, Investment Manager – October 1
Agnes Tennenbaum, Holocaust Survivor – October 8
John Sledge, Architectural Historian and Author – October 15
Joel Erdmann, USA Athletic Director – October 22
David Randel, Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau – October 29
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

Shelia's Surprise Birthday Party!



Friday morning a large gathering surprised Shelia Smith, our much loved Food Services Director, with a delicious homemade cake, numerous cards, and many good wishes for a Happy 50th Birthday. Dr. George Sinclair presented Shelia with a gift from all of us. A good time was had by all!

Sermon-Only Audio Files Now Available

In addition to the audio file of each Sunday's full service, our web site now has clips of just the current week's Sermon available for listening. These new sermon files and the full service files are located on the site's Sermons page: [http://www.gspcmobile.org/Service and Sermons.htm](http://www.gspcmobile.org/Service%20and%20Sermons.htm).

Brian Naylor has been a great help both in recording and clipping these files for us. Thanks Brian!

Next **kayaking outing**: Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 – 12:00. Location will be at 5 Rivers and this time there will be the possibility to rent kayaks. Those who wish to do so should contact the outfitter at 251-626-8464.

Next "**Out to Dinner Club**" is scheduled for Baytreat on Friday, September 18. Details forthcoming.

Spotlight on Staff:

Ben Purifoy and Herbert Pettaway

Ben Purifoy, son of Bobby Purifoy, our recently retired Sexton, continues his service for GSPC in his new capacity as Church Sexton. Over the past year, Ben assisted Bobby and Linda. Ben is a native Mobilian and a graduate of Mobile County Training School, K J Clark Middle School, and Vigor High School.



Ben (l) and Pettway (r)

Herbert Pettaway, or 'Pettway' as he prefers to be called, is another familiar face at GSPC. Pettway has helped with Coffee Club for over 5 years. In August he became our Assistant Sexton, and as such he will provide security for Coffee Club and assist Ben and Linda as needed. Pettway is also a native Mobilian and a graduate of Dunbar Middle School and Murphy High School.

Congratulations to **Harley Jones** for coauthoring the computer programming book "Professional JavaScript Frameworks: Prototype, YUI, ExtJS, Dojo and MooTools" out on August 31st. Harley is responsible for the Java Script frameworking chapters and coding in the work. His family is very proud of him and his accomplishment — and so is his church family!

Christian Education

Sunday School Kick-Off Parties Sept. 13

Both Young Adult Classes will kick off the fall season with parties:

Young Adult I: at the home of Liz and Guy Helmsing from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Young Adult II: at the home of Sallye and George Irvine from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Youth Kick-Off Party!!

For the convenience of parents with children in grades 6-12, Kathryn Threadgill is sponsoring a simultaneous youth party at her home in Daphne:

Come celebrate **The Beginning** at Rev. Kathryn Threadgill's Home

Youth are invited to be the first to Party in Rev. Kathryn's new Home!

Meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. to van-pool. Return via van-pool at 7:00 p.m. to GSPC parking lot.

Sunday, September 13th

Dr. Sinclair will teach a special Sunday School class on The Sacraments this Sunday, Sept. 6, in the Parlor.

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Children's Ministries by Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Rally Day** was a blast of fun celebrating the new year of Christian Education. We had over 30 children in attendance and over 20 youth to help. What a joyful day! Thank you so much to all of the youth who helped at Rally Day. Each one of you is so special to me! I also want to thank Charlotte, Linda, Shelia, Ben, Pettway, Ian Murray, Dusty & Teresa Neff, Holly Carrigan and her daughter-in-law for all of their hard work to make Rally Day special.
- **Welcome Back to Sunday School Party:** You are invited to a party on Sunday, September 6th at 9:30 am to celebrate Sunday School. All children ages 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome to the party.
- **CLUB 345** (a fellowship group for third, fourth, and fifth graders) will have a Kick-Off Party on Sunday, September 20th following worship. We will meet in fellowship hall and go to Cathedral Square for a provided picnic and games. The fun will conclude at 2:30 p.m. back at the church.
- **Children's and Cherub Choirs** will begin rehearsal on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. The Cherub Choir (ages 3 thru Kindergarten) will meet in the Market Place Room with Mrs. Wanda; the Children's Choir (1st grade thru 5th grade) will be in the Tent Room with Mr. Terry. Please be on time for practice!
- **Children at the Lord's Table Class** (2nd graders) begins on Sunday, September 13th during the worship hour.
- **Family Devotional for September:** Scripture: Galatians 3:28; Prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*;
Song: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*
- **Making Time For God: Our GSPC family devotional book.** Each week look in the newsletter for our question of the week related to a devotional from the same week in *Making Time For God*. I hope you enjoy exploring the answers with your family and also with your church family.

Question of the Week: Do you ever wish you could predict the future?