

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

## Women's Retreat

by Kara Olson, Director of Youth and CE

I am definitely a retreat person. Retreats became a part of who I am early on in life. When I was four my mom, brother and I took a train out west and went to a conference at Ghost Ranch (a Presbyterian Conference Center in New Mexico.) What I remember about the trip is that the chairs on the train spun around so you could face either direction, eating ice cream in a big playground tube while it was raining, a clown picking me up and carrying me around the room during one of the retreat sessions (and me bawling my eyes out while he did), and pretending to be sheep in a sheep pasture. I also remember my mom talking about how nice it was to "get away." As mom kept taking my brother and I on retreats, I became more and more a retreat person. Nowadays retreats and "getting away" are central to who I am as a person of faith. I thrive in settings where there is energy, study, lots of people, singing, worshipping, and playing. My extrovert self comes out in these settings and each retreat I have attended truly has marked and changed me as a person of faith.

The GSPC Women's retreat was held at Baytreat this past weekend, and though it was only a one night retreat, I walked away with new ideas, the confirmation that retreats are essential to my faith, and the fact that GSPC is a growing, thriving congregation. The theme of this year's retreat was *The 5 Ships of Christian Living: Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship, Worship, and Stewardship*. 22 women sailed away this weekend (literally with a ton of rain) and explored what these areas mean in each of our lives.

After I wrote the front page newsletter article about the 5 ships several months ago, someone suggested that the women's retreat be designed around that concept. When Jane Hale and I first started planning, I really had no idea how we were going to fit all of these "ships" into one weekend, and how it would work together. We decided to ask different people to speak on each of the ships, so this weekend we heard Amanda

Murray speak about Leadership, Jenny Chapman speak about Scholarship, my friend from Wooster Kristin Stroble speak about Stewardship and her experience in the Philippines, and of course I led the crazy games, and planned our worship experiences. Each of the different speakers brought something new to the table and a lens for us to think about these areas of Christian living. We delved into the story of Queen Vashti to examine women in leadership roles. We discussed the historical importance of scholarship in the reformed faith, and then through the story of Abigail and David, we studied the concept of "crossroads people." We heard about a country that is in great unrest, with unsafe living conditions, and the hope that is still present there. We also had time to sit and look at the bay, eat good food, and laugh.

The most apparent thing I walked away with after this weekend, however, was the growth of this church, and the fact that those of us at the retreat feel that GSPC is fulfilling all 5 ships of ministry. This weekend was truly inter-generational, but the even more wonderful thing for me was that out of twenty-two women we had six women who have been members of GSPC for less than two years, three women who have been members less than five years, and women who have been attending GSPC their entire lives. This combination of old and new members speaks to the growth of this church, and also to the importance of connecting with new people and hearing new ideas. We walked away from this weekend with more ideas of ways that we can continue the outreach and ministry of GSPC, and how we can do this in new and different ways. That for me was the beauty of this weekend's Women's retreat. It shows that GSPC is a growing, thriving community, and also, coincidentally, that if you put a group of women together in a room, we will come up with creative solutions to all the world's problems through food, laughter, and fellowship!

# Music Ministry

**Terry D. Maddox, M.M., Director of Music**

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley. He had to walk it by himself. We must walk this lonesome valley. We have to walk it by ourselves!*

As modern day Christians, we have the blessing of being able to walk together as we observe and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his victory at the cross during Holy Week. This year, we will again begin Holy Week with our procession from the parking lot into the sanctuary with our Children's Choirs, handbells and our Adult Choir leading members of our congregation and clergy in celebration. Palm Sunday's festive beginning gives way to the somber revelation of the New Covenant of the Upper Room and the betrayal in the Garden, the humiliation and torture in religious and civil courts of the day, and the brutal crucifixion and sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the world.

We finally celebrate resurrection morning with an exciting, spirit filled celebration service Easter Morning.

**Members of the congregation who wish to participate in the Palm Sunday procession are urged to be in the parking lot at 10:40 a.m.** so that we can line-up and distribute palms. Palms will be available at all doors of the church and in the parking lot.

Following are the special services that we will celebrate this sacred week of remembrance. Please share in these and bring a friend.

## Holy Week Service Schedule

**Sunday, April 5** ~10:45 a.m. Procession & Worship

**Maundy Thursday, April 9** ~11:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Good Friday, April 10** ~ 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

**Easter Sunday, April 12** ~ 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

## **Earth Day Sunday, April 19, 2009: Celebrating and Caring for God's Creation**

At this year's General Assembly the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognized and accepted the responsibility of stewardship of God's creation as a central concern of the church to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level.

The church has many powerful reasons for this engagement:

- God's work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful and too good to be desecrated. Restoring creation is God's own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore.
- God, our Creator, calls faithful people to become engaged in keeping and healing all of creation.
- In this critical time God's new doing may be discerned as a call to earth-keeping, to justice and to community.

We invite you to embrace this ministry and celebrate Earth Day Sunday, April 19. For more Earth Day information, visit the [Peacemaking Worship](http://www.pcusa.org) resources page at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

# Christian Education

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

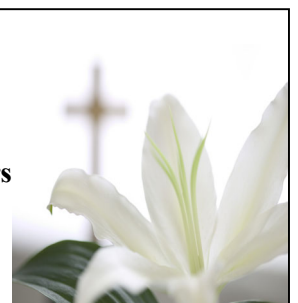
- **Children's & Cherub Choirs** need to be in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday to prepare for the procession.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in Washington Square.
  - Food, fun, and fellowship
  - Face painting by Holly Carrigan
  - Hosted by Brad & Laura Hassell
  - Egg Hunts for infants to 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- **Parents ~ we still need filled plastic eggs.** Please bring to the church a dozen filled plastic eggs by April 3. Label your child's name and age on the outside.
- **Vacation Bible School** ~ If you plan on participating registration must be in by June 5<sup>th</sup>.  
*Crocodile Dock Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light*, ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
June 8-12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$5 registration fee, t-shirt included. Everyone, mark your calendars and tell your friends about this great week of fun!

**Kara Olson  
Director of Youth & CE**

- This Saturday is the **Easter Egg Hunt!** Youth, we need your help at Washington Square to set-up and help with games.
- On Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> PYC will continue planning for **Youth Sunday**. Thanks for all your hard work this past week, let's keep it up this Sunday at 5:30 p.m. We will begin with dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- There will be **NO PYC on Easter Sunday** (April 12.) On Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> we will do our run through. April 26<sup>th</sup> is Youth Sunday. We will arrive early to make sure everything is ready. The Senior Luncheon will follow Worship.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is **Parent's Night Out!** This is a Montreat Fundraiser. Arrive at 4:45 p.m.

On Easter Sunday we will have the big wooden cross out in front of the Jackson Street entrance.

**Please bring fresh flowers** to fill the cross on Easter Sunday, April 12.



# Congregational Life

Congratulations to Jay and Amanda Roberds on the birth of Alice Louise, born March 30.

Christian sympathy is extended to Liz Helmsing and family on the death of Liz's grandmother, Betty Wilbourn. Betty died March 25.

Thank you to those who shared good-byes with us at the reception after church last Sunday. We will treasure memories of our years at GSPC as each member of our family grew in faith and was nurtured by the people and ministries of the congregation. Through the church's continuing support for our extended family in Lesotho, Frank and Nancy Dimmock, and through your visits to Montreat, we look forward to staying in touch with our GSPC family.

Gill and Martha, Letitia, Brian and Robert

## Urban Ministry

Family Promise of Coastal Alabama  
presents an entertaining Spring Fundraiser



*"Dancing with the Clergy"*

Friday, April 24, 2009 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Dauphin Way United Methodist Church

Join clergy from within our Interfaith Hospitality Network (**Who from GSPC will be dancing?**) and enjoy favorite pasta dishes from our Interfaith Hospitality Network Congregations. Dessert will be provided by the Youth Group of Dauphin Way UMC.

**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](mailto:hmlfamilypromise@bellsouth.net)

**Assistance for the Turk and Dimmock Families:**  
**Save the date! 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.

Toward this end, 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 highly needed funds for our families in mission; the Turks in Madagascar and the Dimmocks 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!

**GSPC Members are Encouraged to...  
Invite a Neighbor Sunday**

Sunday, May 3rd is Invite a Neighbor Sunday. Invite a friend/neighbor to worship and join us afterwards in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, a presentation on World Mission, and (always) fabulous food!

### Lectionary Readings for April 5, Passion/Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)

Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:12-16;  
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a;  
Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47 *or* Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

### April 6, Monday of Holy Week

Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 36:5-11; Heb. 9:11-15;  
John 12:1-11

### April 7, Tuesday of Holy Week

Isa. 49: 1-7; Ps. 71:1-14; 1 Cor. 1:1-18-31;  
John 12:20-36

### April 8, Wednesday of Holy Week

Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 70; Heb. 12:1-3;  
John 13:21-32

### April 9, Maundy Thursday

Exod. 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19;  
1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 10, Good Friday

Isa. 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22; Heb. 10:16-25 *or*  
Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

### April 11, Great Vigil of Easter

Gen. 1:1-2:4a; Ps. 136:1-9, 23-26;  
Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13;  
Ps. 46; Gen. 22:1-18; Ps. 16;  
Exod. 14:10-31, 15:20-21;  
Exod. 15:1b-13, 17-18; Isa. 55:1-11;  
Isa. 12:2-6; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6;  
Ps. 19; Ezek. 36:24-28; Ps. 42 & 43;  
Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 143; Zeph. 3:14-20;  
Ps. 98; Rom. 6:3-11; Ps. 114; Mark 16:1-8

***Honor your loved one with a  
Sunday Sanctuary Flower  
arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald,  
478-3087, to reserve a date.  
April 19th and 26th are currently available.***



**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 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 432-1749 or [denise@gspcmobile.org](mailto: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](mailto:laura@gspcmobile.org) if you would like to make this change. Thank you!



**LILIES FOR EASTER**

Lilies are \$9 each or 2 for \$16.50. (One lily per memorial or honorarium.)

Please complete *one form for each plant* and include payment with your order.

**DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, April 8th.**

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

