

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

Associate Pastor Search

by George Sinclair, Pastor

The practice of calling clergy for Presbyterians is a bit like getting married—first, you must decide that you want to get married and then you start looking. When you find someone you're interested in, you exchange information and after that, you date. You go out. And when you're really serious and you've been out enough to know each other really well, you ask permission to be together for much longer—for better or for worse—all under God's watchful eye.

Actually, it's more complicated than that but not by much. The first step has already been taken—GSPC has decided to look. We want an associate to work with our youth and lead our education ministry. We have a job description. And we now also have a Church Information Form (CIF) and a Search Committee officially known as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

The Committee, elected by you on January 18, met for training last week with Samford Turner and elected Henry Morrissette, chair. The Committee also received seminary student resumes from Columbia, Union, Princeton, and Louisville and agreed to contact Pittsburg, McCormick, Dubuque, and San Francisco. In addition, the Committee agreed to ask for your input. If you know someone you think would be ideal for the job, please contact Henry at hmorrissette@handarendall.com. Candidates may be previously ordained or seeking ordination.

Samford, meanwhile, is forwarding our CIF to the E-Harmony Center for Presbyterian Clergy in Louisville, aka *Call Referral Services*. Our profile will be matched with candidate profiles known as PIF's (Personal Information Forms). Your Search Committee will then read these and other PIF's sent our way until they're bleary eyed or inspired. Upon

inspiration, they will begin the *Ring Neck Presbyterian Call Dance*. When successful, which can take several months or sometimes much longer, your Committee will bring a chosen few to Mobile for closer inspection. When Rev. Right is found, Father Turner and the Committee on Ministry will give their permission for GSPC to "issue a call." At that point, the Session will call a Congregational Meeting at which time a vote will be taken on the nominee presented by the Committee. Pending your affirmative vote, Rev. Right will be granted permission to "move onto the field" and get busy.

Upon examination by the entire COM and Presbytery, and with all parties thoroughly exhausted as no stone left unturned, Rev. Right will then be installed to office as our new associate. And we'll have a big party.

If this Presbyterian mating ritual seems a bit old fashion and over-drawn, it is not without good reason. Calling a minister, like finding a suitable mate, is both serious and complicated. And likewise, marriage itself, as Paul said, can be *distressing*. Deliberate speed and due diligence can ward off unnecessary troubles between flocks and pastors and we hope, in the end, make for a happily married life.

So, pray for your Committee: Henry, Stephanie Crowe, Sallye Irvine, Kate Gardner, Elizabeth Boone, Charles Smith, and Jim Van Haneghan. While their work is necessarily confidential, they will provide regular progress reports through this and other publications. We wish them God's speed and blessing.

George

Note cards & Prints of the GSPC Watercolor



The Mission Committee received from Jerome Fisher, the artist of the watercolor painting in the foyer, 20 ~16 x 20 print reproductions with certificates of authenticity of the work and several hundred note cards that are now available for purchase.

Autographed print can be purchased for \$100. Note cards are available for \$1 each. **Proceeds from the sales will be donated to two world Presbyterian missions: the work of Frank & Nancy Dimmock in Lesotho, and to the work of Dan & Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar.**

GSPC Sends Support to Lesotho

Last year the GSPC Session approved a plan to provide three years' of financial support to the Ministry of Insured Salvation (M.I.S.) orphanage in Lesotho.

"The Ministry of Insured Salvation was established in 1984 in Maseru, Lesotho by Rev/Pastor Mavis Mochochoko. It was formally registered in June 1988. The children's residence was established in response to the need for care of a growing number of children who were found abandoned or deserted.

It is a non-profit ministry that believes it is the hand of God at work caring for these children using His people as His instruments for His glory. Therefore the work is based principally on the truth and integrity of God's Word and His promises.

As of July 2007, there were approximately 108 children present at the Center, from ages 0-22 years. The Male/Female ratio is about the 50:50. Nearly 1/3 of these children were found in dustbins, toilet pits, plastic bags or were left outside the Center, so have no known family or history. Others were brought by the police, various chiefs, various government offices, distant relatives, neighbors or people who have found them and brought them to the home. Some were old enough to know their names; others were given names by the Center.

We will never know the specific reasons why these particular children were abandoned, but with the high incidence of HIV/AIDS, unemployment, poverty, and resulting deaths in the country, it is likely that many were brought to the home as a result of these things and their impact on families."

from www.mislesotho.org

The first financial gift of \$7,500 from GSPC to the orphanage will operate the Center for two and half months (feeding the children and paying 17 staff members' salaries.) Nancy Dimmock expressed her deep appreciation to the Session and to the GSPC Congregation in a warm letter. For more information and to view a beautiful on-line photo album, visit: www.mislesotho.org.

Christian Education

**Save the Date! Women's Retreat at Baytreat
March 27 & 28th**

PYC ~ Kara Olson, Director of Youth & CE

Calendar Updates

- **SOUPER Bowl Sunday** - Youth, remember to meet after Sunday School to grab the soup pots so we can collect the offering at the end of worship.
- This Sunday, February 1st we will meet at the Gardner's House (3211 Venetia Rd.) for a **Super Bowl Party!** Join the fun at 6:00p.m.!!
- On Sunday night, **February 8**, we will meet at All Saint's Hall at **5:00 pm** to set-up and then host a **Valentine's Party for the L'Arche Community**. This is a joint effort with All Saint's Episcopal Youth Group and Overlook Presbyterian Youth Group. We will be eating dinner with the L'Arche community and making valentines! (And some other fun activities as well!!)
- On **February 15** we will attend the **Neptune's Daughters Parade** here at the church! We'll meet at 5:30.
- Please change the calendar I sent home... there will be **NO EVENT on February 22nd** due to Joe Cain Sunday! Thanks!

Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Children's Choir** will sing during worship this Sunday, February 1st
- The children are continuing to raise money and awareness for the **Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery**. Please support their mission.
- Amanda will be out of the office January 26th to February 1st. She will be participating in the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators in San Antonio, Texas.

Islam Class Begins! February 1st

If you are interested in learning more about the Islam religion, join Andy King in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 this Sunday. If you have questions, call Andy at 434-9328.

Lectionary Readings for February 1:

Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:29-39

Congregational Life

February Committee Meetings

Tuesday, February 3: Urban Ministries, Property, and Evangelism and Membership

Tuesday, February 10: Christian Education, Worship, Mission

Tuesday, February 17: Session and Diaconate—No Supper—**Meeting will be held at Central Presbyterian Church**, 1260 Dauphin Street

Christian sympathy to George Harris on the death of his daughter **Louise Harris**, age 57. Services were held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Congratulations to John and Julie Otts on the birth of their new son **Conrad Bodden Otts**. He was born on Jan. 20 and weighed 8 lbs and 2 oz. Proud grandparents are Dick and Betsy Otts.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. February 8 and 22 are currently available.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson and Maria Marbus

Somerby of W. Mobile: Kitty Harris

Gordon Oaks: Thyrsa Jones (rm 239), Harriet Norville (rm 241) and Warren Norville (rm 27)

Westminster Village: Ben Hutson (rm 562)

Cogburn (Dauphin Con.): Winnie Counts, and David and Betty Mechler

Mobile Infirmary West: Blair Newman

Urban Ministry

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)/ Family Promise

GSPC will host IHN the week of **March 22-28**. We need 98 volunteers in order to fill all the necessary slots and make the week a success. Volunteers are needed for:

- Set Up & Clean Up
- Evening Hosts
- Laundry
- Meals
- Overnight Hosts

Please contact **Michon Trent** at (251) 432-4264 or call the church office at (251) 432-1749.

GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

Thursdays Noon to 1 PM
in Fellowship Hall, Lunch—\$5

February 5: Thomas Davis, Jr.,
President and CEO of the Community
Foundation of South Alabama

The mission of The Community Foundation is to strengthen the future of non-profit organizations in Southwest Alabama by encouraging gifts, large and small from all segments of the community. Serving as responsible stewards of these donations, The Foundation makes grants to non-profit organizations in the fields of arts and recreation, education, social services, health, community, civic, environment, and others.

When the Foundation was originally formed in 1975, it was sheltered by United Way and designed to complement the work of United by providing grants to agencies other than social service organizations.

A University of Alabama graduate, Tom Davis completed a commissioned tour of duty in the United States Air Force before returning to Mobile in 1971. He worked as Chief Administrative Officer of First Southern Federal Savings & Loan Association (now Regions Bank) where he worked for twelve years. He became the first full time employee at The Foundation in 1984.

Tom is a member of the Rotary Club of Mobile, a member of YMCA Metro Board, Presbyterian Retirement Corporation (Westminster Village) and United Way of Southwest Alabama. Tom was also a past member of AFP and served as President of the Chapter.

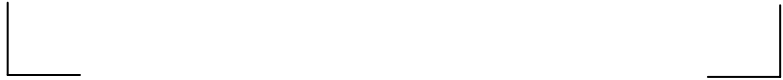
He is married to Anne Weaver, the father of three sons.

Next Thursday, February 12

Clint Martin, Financial Advisor,
at Edward Jones

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 if you would like to make this change. Thank you!



The Presbytery Meeting at GSPC—Feb 27 and Feb 28

GSPC will host the Presbytery of South Alabama Meeting on February 27, 28, 2009. Ryan Jensen will be examined at this meeting before his ordination on Sunday, March 1. If you can help in any of the following areas, please fill in the sign up sheet with your name and the task(s) you would enjoy doing, and return the slip to the office, Dot White, or M.R. Andrews.

SET UP: Friday, Feb. 27, 10:30 AM—set up for evening dinner and decorate tables, rooms for small group meetings (Bibles, pens, paper) and registration area

REGISTRATION Friday late afternoon: Five people needed to manage registration tables

GREETERS for *Friday evening and Saturday*

USHERS for Worship Services Friday Evening and Saturday: Sanctuary preparation & ushering during the services

CLEAN UP AND SET UP FOR SATURDAY after dinner Friday evening: laundry of tablecloths, set up for continental breakfast Saturday morning

SOUND SYSTEM personnel for both worship services and the general meeting

SET UP FOR NOON LUNCHEON Saturday mid-morning

CLEAN UP AND SET UP Saturday afternoon: clean up of Fellowship Hall and rooms used for small group meetings, reset for Congregational Lunch on Sunday, March 1

Name _____ Phone _____

I will help with: _____
