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Noon
Lunch
\$5

Fellowship
Hall

January 8

Caroline Etherton

Gulf Coast Exploreum, Assistant Director of the Science Center

January 15

Bradley Byrne

Chancellor of Alabama's 2-year college system

January 22—to be announced

January 29

Dr. Semoon Chang

University of South Alabama, Professor of Economics

February 5

Thomas Davis, Jr.

Community Foundation of Alabama, Executive Director

February 12

Clint Martin

Edward Jones, Financial Advisor

February 19

Joe Gottfried

University of South Alabama, Athletic Director

February 26

Chris Barraza

Mobile Area Young Professionals Alliance, Project Manager

March 5

Andy Anderson

Mobile Opera, Artistic Director

March 12

Scott Speck

Mobile Symphony, Music Director

March 19

Teresa Ramsey

Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise, Director

March 26

Jimmy Lyons

Alabama State Docks, Executive Director

April 2

Elizabeth Sanders

Downtown Mobile District Management Corp., Executive Director

Government Street is the site of two special opportunities this month.

Beginning this week, GSPC will kick off the next series of the **Thursday Forums**. This occasion includes fellowship, civic interaction, and education, all beginning with a wonderful lunch. GSPC's own Caroline Etherton, representing the Gulf Coast Exploreum, will be our first speaker on January 8th.

GSPC HOMECOMING!

The second opportunity will take place on Sunday, January 25. After the 11:00 worship service, members, family and guests are invited into the Fellowship Hall for the **2009 Homecoming Celebration**.

Lunch will be served, along with presentations of the past, present and future life of the church.

I hope to see you there!

Ryan Jensen
Director of Discipleship
Formation

Christian Education

The Sunday Morning Series

9:30 a.m. * Fellowship Hall

January 11 ~ Susan Ashbee, Jane Hale,
and Chris Norwood

“Healthy Christian Living for 2009”

Susan Ashbee is a Pediatrician at the Mostellar Medical Center in Bayou La Batre. She has a special interest in Mental Health and participates as a teacher in the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) program, Family Basics, teaching families how to live in a healthy manner with children affected by mental illness.

Jane Hale is a physical therapist at Azalea City Physical Therapy. Her practice centers around injury rehabilitation through exercise, postural re-education and spinal treatment, along with an emphasis on injury prevention. Her focus with patients is an exercise and posture-based plan of care to return to pain free function.

Chris Norwood works for Westminster Village in Spanish Fort and is the Assistant Food Service Director. She works with residents on meeting their nutritional needs. This includes residents who live in Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing. In addition to this she also assists with management of the Food Service Department.

March 15th *Sunday Morning Series*
Speaker ~ Virginia Guy

The New Sunday School schedule, which begins this Sunday, January 11th, is enclosed in this newsletter and copies are also available at the church.

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

PYC ~ Kara Olson, Director of Youth & CE

- January 11th—Planning for the semester, 5:30 p.m.

Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Sunday School** will begin on a regular schedule January 11th at 9:30 am.
- **Choir** rehearsal will resume on January 11th at 10:10 am.
- **CLUB 345** will meet January 18th, so mark your calendars!

"Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University"

is being offered at Swift Presbyterian Church in Mifflin (Foley). Orientation and a preview will be held on Thurs., Jan. 8 or Tues., Jan. 13 at 6 pm. The series of 13 weekly classes will begin Tuesday, January 27th from 6 to 8 pm. There is a \$99.00 materials fee per family or an individual. This is a faith based program to help you find the way out of your financial burdens or if you would just like to have a better understanding of handling your finances through a proven Christian method. For further information, please call the church office at 943-8367.

Jody Beth Melton

Assistant to the Pastor, Swift Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Class

My class based on Miroslav Volf's book, *The End Of Memory*, will begin this Sunday in the Parlor at 9:30. Unfortunately, due to a delay in shipping, his book was not available in advance. We expect the books to arrive this week. If you have not already purchased one elsewhere, you may buy one this Sunday for \$17. Despite the delay, we will begin with chapter one. If you have not signed up previously, please join us at 9:30. See you then. George

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called our annual meeting for Sunday, January 18. Traditionally, we have met after worship and a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. In light of Homecoming, slated for January 25th, when a congregational meal will be served, we will omit the meal for this year's meeting and meet immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. Scheduled business includes receiving written annual reports from our ministry and mission groups, voting on pastoral terms of call, and electing three officers to fill unexpired terms. Ryan Jensen, having met the requirements for ordination, will be formally called as our Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Discipleship Formation. (Ryan's Ordination and Installation is scheduled for March 1 at GSPC.) Finally, we will elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The Search Committee will be charged with identifying a new Associate Pastor for Youth and Christian Education. Kara Olson, our Director for Youth and Christian Education, has decided to return to graduate school in the fall or pursue other employment toward her eventual career. We are thankful for Kara's ministry with our youth and wish her God's blessing. She will continue her work with us through the summer including our PYC's trip to Montreat. Our goal is to call the new associate before May 1 with a beginning date of employment this summer. Search Committee nominees include: Elizabeth Boone, Stephanie Crowe, Kate Gardner, Jim Van Haneghan, Sallye Irvine, Henry Morrisette, and Charles Smith.

Congregational Life

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee chairs, please notify the office of your January meeting plans. As it stands now, committees are scheduled to meet on the following dates at 5:30 pm:

2nd Tuesday, January 13th

Mission
Christian Education
Worship
Congregational Life

3rd Tuesday, January 20th

Session
Diaconate

WORSHIP

Communion Service

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Our Book of Order reminds us, "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."

New officers for the Class of 2011 will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday.

A Special Note of Thanks

To **Harriett Felis**, for her enthusiasm and commitment to her Chancel Guild responsibilities. After the holidays, she made sure all of the Christmas poinsettias left for distribution were shared with our Meals on Wheels homes and with as many of our home-bound members as she was able to reach.

For the Sunday Sanctuary flowers that are left for Presbyterian Women distribution, Harriett takes special care to make several colorful individual bouquets of the beautiful large arrangements and then delivers them to our home-bound members, folks in the hospital, and those in nursing homes.

The "spring-like" arrangement from Sunday, January 4th was shared with Mary Knox Middleton, Maria Marbus, and others at Allen Memorial. Please call Harriett at 367-7989 if you would like help with deliveries!

Presbyterian Women

January Circle Meetings

Circle 1 January 12, Mon. 10:30 am, 1819 Indian Creek Dr.

Margaret Sue Oswalt ~ hostess
Alice Glover Inge ~ co-hostess

Circle 5 January 14, Wed. 6:30 pm, 200 S. Georgia Ave.

Bonnie Phillips ~ hostess

Circle 6 January 14, Wed. 10:30 am, Church Parlor

Circle 7 January 15, Thu. 10:00 am, Church Parlor

Charlotte Crockett ~ hostess

Circle 8 January 13, Tue. 12:00 pm, **True Restaurant,**

9 Du Rhu Dr., Ste 201



GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

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

January 15: Bradley Byrne

Bradley Byrne was born and raised in Mobile where he attended University Military School. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University, *magna cum laude*, and his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. He practiced law in Mobile for over 25 years, primarily in the areas of business and employment litigation. From 1994 to 2002, he was a member of the Alabama State Board of Education. From 2002 to 2007, he represented District 32 (Baldwin County) in the Alabama State Senate where he served on the Education Committee, the Education Budget Committee, and the Judiciary Committee, and chaired the Joint Oversight Committee on State Parks.

Mr. Byrne has worked for over 20 years to improve education in Alabama and has served on numerous boards and committees to this end, winning a number of awards along the way. He is a member of Leadership Alabama, the Alabama State Bar, and a Honorary Life Member of the Alabama PTA.

Mr. Byrne was appointed by the Alabama State Board of Education in May of 2007 to serve as Chancellor of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, in which role he serves as the chief executive officer of Alabama's two-year college system. The Alabama College System includes 21 community colleges, four technical colleges, Marion Military Institute, Athens State University, the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, and the Alabama Technology Network. With a total budget of nearly \$1 billion, the Alabama College System served more than 300,000 people in the 2005-06 academic year.

In his role as Chancellor, Mr. Byrne also serves as Chairman of the State Workforce Planning Council. In that role he oversees all of Alabama's workforce development efforts.

He is married to Rebecca and they are the parents of four children: Patrick, Kathleen, Laura, and Colin. Mr. Byrne lives in Fairhope where he attends St. James Episcopal Church.

Next Thursday, January 22

To be announced.

Mission

URBAN MINISTRIES

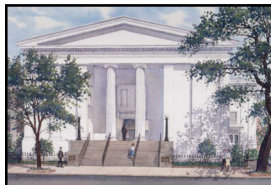
The **Coffee Club Christmas Party** was a huge success thanks to the following: GSPC members and friends who helped serve and clean up, the youth who decorated Fellowship Hall and filled gift bags, 4th grade students from UMS-Wright and Haskew Elementary who decorated the gift bags, GSPC members and friends who donated food, gifts and money. A special thanks to Wanda Lawrence and Terry Maddox for the wonderful music and to Shelia, Bobby and Ben, our invaluable staff support.

Thanks to all who helped make the Christmas Season special for the homeless we serve.

Dot White, Urban Ministries Committee

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.**



IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson

Somerby of W. Mobile: Kitty Harris

Gordon Oaks: Thyrza Jones (room 239), Harriet Norville (room 241) and Warren Norville (room 27)

Westminster Village: Ben Hutson (room 562)

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

Mobile Infirmary West: Blair Newman

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Sara Bryan, 471-1036, to reserve a date. Available dates are January 18 & 25th; February 1, 8 & 22.

Lectionary Readings for January 11:

Baptism of the Lord

Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11