



GSPC NEWS



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

Pew Sitters in Perpetuity

Dr. Al Reese
Interim Senior Pastor

While we still have three weeks to serve as the interim for George's sabbatical, a number of you good folks have asked Helen and me what we plan to do upon George's return. I have a standard answer, and so far as I can tell, Helen is o.k. with it:

- First, no more interims.
- Second, Retirement, Retirement, Retirement.
- Third, a pew at GSPC has been "rented" for as long as we are able to make the drive over here from Pensacola.

That does not mean that we will be in worship every Sunday after August 9. Many of those Sundays will be spent visiting children, grandchildren, and friends. But most of the time, we will be in our regular pew, and we hope to be as vital a part of the life of this great church as time and health will permit. Helen is very involved in the work of First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola during the week, but Presbytery protocols do not permit me the same privilege, so GSPC will be my church, which is exactly the way I would want it to be.

Let me say a word about the next three Sundays. On July 26 Ryan will preach, and I will be his liturgist. On August 2, Andy will preach and either Ryan or I will be his liturgist. This will be Andy's last chance to preach for us, and it will be a chance for us to tell him what a superb job he has done over the last 12 months. His last Sunday

in Mobile will be August 16, and George will have an opportunity on that Sunday to wish him Godspeed and to thank him again for being one of our outstanding interns with such a bright future in ministry wherever he and his bride-to-be answer God's call. Our church, especially its legacy of Urban Mission Camps, will always remember the summer of '09 as the best summer ever (7 very full camps, Richard Mighell Camp, and 3 camps for Talledega's Presbyterian Home for Children) at Baytreat! That UMC ministry requires a total effort, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and Andy has been there. Well done, good and faithful servant!

I will preach on August 9th and turn in my vestments to the Salvation Army! It has been an absolute joy to end it all here, and there are no resources in this old and enfeebled brain for creating the proper words to express the gratitude I feel for all you have meant to me, both as your interim and as your parish associate. Over the next three weeks, I will try to find some words ... suggestions from you will be welcomed ... but please know that you will always be my favorite church, and that will not change.

God Bless,
Al

P.S.

Frankie Jernigan and Eleanor Curran need our prayers. To inquire about Frankie, call Betty McKinnon (626-441), and to inquire about Eleanor, she is home now and will probably answer the phone. They are both very special ladies!

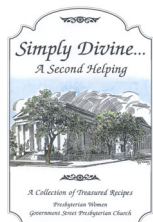
Presbyterian Women



God Did Wonders! More than 2,500 Presbyterian women (and a few men) attended Presbyterian Women's Church-wide Gathering in Louisville, July 11–15. Exploring the theme "God will do wonders among you," participants attended workshops, witnessed the commissioning of PC(USA) mission co-workers, celebrated worship, received inspiration from plenary speakers and enjoyed fellowship with sisters in faith from around the world.

Bligh Jones and Martha Tissington from GSPC attended this great gathering. Bligh served as chair of the Plenary Committee. Emily Martin, our student intern for 2007-2008, preached at one Plenary. For pictures and stories, visit www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.

The Presbyterian Women's Directory ~ if there are any **changes** for the directory please call the office, 432-1749, or email your changes to laura@gspcmobile.org. Changes must be received by **July 31**. Thank you.



Copies of *Simply Divine... A Second Helping* are available for purchase. It makes a wonderful gift for bridal showers and birthdays or just thinking of you days. The cookbooks are \$15 each. Please contact the church office to purchase your copy.

Lectionary readings for July 26:

2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Dear GSPC friends and family,

It is with deep appreciation that I wish to thank all of you who remembered us with your calls, memorials, and cards when my great Aunt Evelyn Shriner died. It means so much to have a caring church family in such times. Aunt Eb did in fact help with Easter decorating, but she chose to chip in with the less noticeable preparations, such as plucking yellow stamens out of the lilies, wrapping the lilies in foil and stuffing water picks with yew to put in the border of the large cross. It is with the faithful and talented help of Anita Winn in arrangement that the lilies become a decoration.

With love in Christ,
Charlotte Crockett

Congregational Life

A special "Thank You" to John Moses and Bay Chevrolet for coming to the rescue of this week's Urban Mission Camp by providing a minivan to transport the youth from site to site.

Fellowship Activities

July 25 A newly formed "**Out to Dinner Club**" will meet for the first time this Saturday, July 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Bimini Bob's, located at 29249 Highway 98, Daphne. Everyone is invited! Please contact Ryan Jensen at 434-9329 or ryan@gspcmobile.org to be included in the count if you would like to come.

August 1 Laura and Ryan Jensen will be **kayaking** out of the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center on the Causeway, early Saturday morning, August 1. If you would like to join us, we will shove off at 7:00 a.m. to paddle north into the Delta. Kayaks and canoes are required! Kayaks can be rented at Five Rivers—call 626-8464 for prices and availability.

Ryan is also seeking volunteers who would like to host an evening meal for a new event: "**The Traveling Gumbo Pot.**" The concept is that I will bring the pot to your home and you fill it with your favorite recipe. (The large, seven gallon pot does not have to be used but must be present in keeping with the theme!) Hosts will also be asked to help in selecting the guest list, with preference given to those neighbors, GSPC members, family and friends who live closest to you. This will be a great way to share in each other's company as well as to invite others to know more about the GSPC family.

For more information, contact Ryan Jensen at 434-9329 or ryan@gspcmobile.org.

Congratulations to Emily and John Holmes on the birth of their son **James "Bennett" Holmes**, born July 9th at 7:16 a.m. in Birmingham. Bennett weighed 7 lbs and 9 oz. The proud grandparents are Tom and Joy Rue.

Congratulations to Lewis and Laila Lawrence on the birth of a daughter, **Lilia Shirazeh Lawrence**, born July 17th at 1:45 a.m. She weighed 8.76 lbs and was 20.5 inches long. The proud grandparents are Ralph and Wanda Lawrence.

A Special Reception will be held for **Bobby Purifoy** on Sunday, July 26 after worship in Fellowship Hall. Bobby has decided to retire. Please join us as we acknowledge Bobby's nearly 10 years of faithful service as the church Sexton.



Our Lesotho, Africa Missionary Frank Dimmock to join us Sunday, August 23

The GSPC World Mission Committee is pleased to announce a special August 23rd visit from Frank Dimmock of our missionary family in Lesotho, Africa. Current plans are for Frank to speak with us in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour and to provide a meaningful minute or two for Missions during the Worship Service. While the specifics of his message are pending, we know it will be enlightening and timely. If Frank's schedule allows, a Saturday night reception at a church member's home is being planned.

Frank and Nancy Dimmock are long-serving PC(USA) missionaries who were first appointed on their June 1, 1985 wedding day and commissioned by the General Assembly in July 1985 during an interruption of their honeymoon. Nancy was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) to Presbyterian missionaries David and Polly Miller, and served in the Peace Corps in Lesotho prior to marrying Frank. The Dimmocks are in their third term of mission service in Lesotho. They also served in Malawi in the early 90s where, along with supporting the ministry and raising their (then) seven children, Nancy founded and coordinated the Malawi Ministry of Hope's Crisis Nursery orphanage for children whose parents were victims of HIV/AIDs. In 2007 Frank became PC(USA)'s first Africa Health Liaison, partnering with churches and ecumenical agencies to develop children's programs. Frank also coordinates the Christian Health Association of Africa and is part-time adviser to the Christian Health Association of Lesotho.

The Dimmocks are one of two missionary families we partially support. The other is the Turks in Madagascar. GSPC has pledged \$7500 a year to each family for the next three years. The recent Out-of-Africa Silent Auction resulted in our being within roughly \$3000 of GSPC's \$15,000 2009 commitment. While we will need your continued support to raise this remainder balance during the upcoming holiday Missions Market, the World Missions Committee wants to whole-heartedly thank all who planned, donated and participated in the Silent Auction - it was a wonderful evening and a resounding fund raising success.

Please mark your calendars regarding this **August 23** singular opportunity to hear firsthand from Frank Dimmock, our outstanding PC(USA) missionary and committed world health professional.