

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

Springing Forward, Faith, and Food

by Kara Olson, Director of Youth and CE

When I hear the phrase “Spring Forward” I think of losing sleep. I do much better with the time change in the fall when I gain an hour of sleep. That alone makes me a very happy person. The Spring is harder, but if you can make it through losing that hour, you get more sunlight, blooming flowers, and warmer weather! Those things make me happy too. So, why am I talking to you about time? Needless to say, I wanted to make a very public announcement about the fact that “Daylight Savings Time” is on the same day as the Italian Lunch: **Sunday, March 8th.**

When I first looked at my calendar and saw that the two coincided, my stomach dropped. I do not know how many people are like me, but forgetting to set my clock forward definitely has happened to me before. I thought, how can I make sure that people remember to set their clocks, and make it to our Italian Lunch? Well, writing is my means of communicating, so here we go!

When I first thought of the concept “Spring Forward,” it read like a theme for a Montreat youth conference, and that got my mind going. The Italian Lunch is the fundraiser that helps send the Youth of this church to Montreat (hence the part of my title about faith and food.) Each year, the youth of this church don wait-staff attire and serve you a special meal in the Fellowship Hall in order to raise money to go to Montreat. Your support of the Italian Lunch will help our youth go to this year’s conference entitled, “World on Fire!” (Now do you see why I felt like “Spring Forward” could be a good Montreat theme?)

Montreat themes are significant. I remember all the themes from my five years of Youth Conferences: *On The Threshold*, *Weaving God’s Vision*, *With These Hands*, *Room at the Table*, and *Check Your Compass*. The two most meaningful themes for me were the two dealing with time and location: *On the Threshold* and *Check Your Compass*. The *On the Threshold* conference spoke to me as a youth who was about to enter High School. I was “On the Threshold” of big changes. “Check Your Compass” helped me to look back at where I had been,

and look forward at where I was going. As a senior in High School, I was ready to go off into “the unknown,” and I needed to *Check My Compass* and make sure I was still heading in the right direction.

That is what I wanted to say to you as a congregation. If you “Spring Forward” several years and talk to the youth of this church when they are in their twenties or later, these conferences will still be resonating with them. Montreat provides a base where faith can be taught and shared. It is for many Presbyterian Youth, *the* place where their faith is affirmed. Church and youth group are important, but there is something about being in a place set apart, where everyone around you is exploring and living out his or her faith, that really sticks with you. If you Spring Forward and ask the youth of GSPC “where did you explore your faith?” or “where did you learn the most about God?” A typical answer would be “Montreat.”

Interestingly, I’ve seen my theory about “Springing Forward” lived out on Facebook. For those of you who do not know, Facebook is a social networking site. The other day I was flipping through photos on the site, and I saw that one of the young adults of this congregation, who grew up in this church, had pictures of GSPC youth attending a Montreat Youth Conference in the ’90s. Ten years after this photo was taken, the comments about this photo spoke fondly of Montreat, of the importance of the place, and of being able to attend conferences there. Montreat truly has a wide-ranging impact on the faith of young adults for years.

So remember to turn your clocks ahead! Come to the Italian Lunch and support the youth of this congregation as they fundraise to go to Montreat together. If you “Spring Forward” you will hear stories from them of a place that strengthened their faith, a place where they could be themselves, and a place where they could express their faith in different ways. Spring Forward and come eat yummy Italian Food prepared by Shelia and served by our great youth. Come and support PYC as they fundraise to be a part of something where you can truly see God at work through a new generation of young believers!

Christian Education

Kara Olson
Director of Youth & CE

- **Brain Fitness—Sunday, March 15th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**
Virginia Guy, Executive Director of the Drug Education Council, will be doing a presentation called “Brain Fitness.” When does your brain stop growing and begin to deteriorate? How can you keep your brain fit as you age? Come hear about brain exercises (not just crossword puzzles.) Come find out how alcohol and drugs affect the brain at different stages of life. Bring your teenagers, bring your parents, and come to hear Virginia. Love to see you there!
- “Conversations with Jesus” a **Lenten Devotional** by Eugenia Gamble is available by the Jackson Street entrance. Pick one up to use on your Lenten Journey!
- Feeling beached? Sail Away with GSPC women on the weekend of March 27th and 28th! Send your registrations for the **Women’s Retreat** at Baytreat to the church office, attn: Kara Olson. Please RSVP by March 15th. (Checks made payable to GSPC.)
- PYC! Arrive this Saturday night, March 7th at 5:00 p.m. to set-up for the **Italian Lunch**. The lunch is this Sunday after worship. We will serve and clean-up on Sunday, so get ready! See you there!

Amanda Murray
Director of Children’s Ministries

- CLUB 345, a fellowship group for 3rd~5th graders, will meet March 22 after worship for a picnic & fun in the park. The cost is \$5.00. Come and bring a friend.
- The children continue to support Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery and have raised over \$600.00 so far.
- The children (ages 3 years old to 5th grade) are combined for Sunday School now through April 12th. We will explore Lent and Easter and everything in between. This week they will experience the crowds at Palm Sunday and wonder what they would do if Jesus came to their town.
- Lenten devotionals are in the mail—watch for them this week. Parents are encouraged to read them with your children and to participate in the activities on the calendar.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 in Washington Square.
 - o Food, fun, and fellowship
 - o Face Painting by Holly Carrigan
 - o Hosted by Brad & Laura Hassell
 - o Egg Hunts for infants to 5th graders

Urban Ministry

IHN VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Noon—March 15

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)/
Family Promise

IHN volunteer training with Michon Trent
Sunday, March 15th after worship in
Fellowship Hall. Join Michon and learn the particulars of
the volunteer positions. Hope to see you there!

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)/
Family Promise—GSPC will host IHN **March 22-28**.

We need volunteers for:

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

Contact **Michon Trent** at 432-4264 or the church office at 432-1749.

There will be a volunteer in the Jackson Street entrance on Sunday mornings with a calendar for you to sign up on.

- **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**

Crocodile Dock Where Fearless Kids Shine

God’s Light, ages 3 to 5th grade

June 8-12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

\$5.00 registration fee, t-shirt included

Everyone, mark your calendars and tell your friends about this great week of fun!

- **Let Your Light Shine**

Watch for this segment each week for what the children are learning. Each month the children will learn a new scripture, song, and prayer. With these new tools, they can Let Their Light Shine through song, scripture, and prayer. I encourage you to learn along with them.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 28:19

- **Song:** Hosanna

- **Prayer:** *I see the moon. The moon sees me. God bless the moon, and God bless me. Amen*

Lectionary Readings for March 8:

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31;

Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Music and Fine Arts

A Service of Lenten Reflection

this Sunday, March 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Working with the Pastorate, the Music and Fine Arts Ministry will present a service of hymns, scripture and special music to aid in the enrichment and depth of the Lenten and Holy Week journey. We will have strings, flute, and perhaps a harp sharing with a combined massed choir of our Sanctuary Choir and members of the Mobile Community Chorus. This special service will be within our normal worship hour. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a beautiful expression of faith, and as one of our selections says, "To Love Our God, the reason we live!"

- *Requiem* Rehearsal—Sunday, March 8, 3—5:00 p.m.
- Mobile Community Chorus—Tuesday, March 10, 7—9:00 p.m.
- No music rehearsal on Wednesday, March 11
- *Requiem* Choir leaves for NYC via New Orleans on March 12
- *Requiem* Concert at Carnegie Hall—Sunday, March 15, 8:00 p.m.

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR
SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 7

Stillman College Choir

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm at

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

(251) 342-1550

Free Admission (Donations for the choir will be accepted)

Stillman College history dates back to 1874 when a group of Presbyterians from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, headed by the Reverend Doctor Charles Allen Stillman, presented an overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States asking the Church to establish a training school for Black male ministers. For more information on Stillman College visit www.stillman.edu.

Presbyterian Women

March Circle Meetings

- Circle 1 ~ Monday, March 9, 10:30 am. Hostesses Hattie Ogburn and Pat Harden. 1818 Springhill Avenue.
- Circle 5 ~ Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm. Hostess Sally Ericson. 1211 Selma Street.
- Circle 6 ~ Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 am. Hostess Betty Harris. 418 Stirrup Court.
- Circle 7 ~ Thursday, March 12, 10:00 am. Charlotte Crockett, Hostess—GSPC Parlor
- Circle 8 ~ Tuesday, March 10, 11:30 am. True Restaurant. 9 Du Rhu Drive.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. March 29 and April 5th are currently available.

GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

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

March 12: Scott Speck

Music Director, Mobile Symphony

With recent performances in London, Paris, Moscow, Beijing, San Francisco and Washington, Scott has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence and winning personality.

Scott's concerts with the Moscow RTV Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky Hall during the past season garnered unanimous praise. His performances with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Evelyn Glennie and Olga Kern have highlighted his recent seasons as Music Director of the Mobile Symphony. This season he also collaborated intensively with Carnegie Hall for the fourth time as Music Director of the West Shore Symphony (MI); and was invited to the White House as Music Director of the Washington Ballet.

In recent seasons, Scott has conducted at London's Royal Opera House, the Paris Opera, Washington's Kennedy Center, San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House, and the Los Angeles Music Center. He has led performances with the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Houston, Paris, Moscow, Shanghai, Beijing, Vancouver, Romania, Slovakia, Honolulu, and New Orleans, among many others.

In addition, Scott is the co-author of two of the world's best-selling books on classical music for a popular audience, *Classical Music for Dummies and Opera for Dummies*.

Born in Boston, Scott graduated summa cum laude from Yale University. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Berlin. He received his Master's Degree with highest honors from the University of Southern California, served as a Conducting Fellow at the Aspen School of Music, and studied at the Tanglewood Music Center



Next Thursday, March 19

Teressa Ramsey, Director

Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise



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

Mobile Infirmary West: Blair Newman

Westminster Village: Mary Pearl McDaniel (critical care room 511)

If you would like to be added or removed from this list please contact Denise Lamby at (251)432-1749 or 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 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: _____

