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Presbyterians at Worship: Resources

by Dr. George Sinclair, Pastor

What is the liturgical year? What is the lectionary and why do we use it? How are hymns chosen? Is there a right way to pray? Who plans worship? Is marriage a sacrament? Why do we baptize our children? What makes a funeral a *Witness to the Resurrection*?

Over the next nine months, Worship Committee members, Roy Nichols and Sally Pearsall will address these and other questions through a series of articles in this publication. Meanwhile, throughout the year, I will lead occasional adult studies on worship, the first on April 19 from 9:30-10:30 in the Church Library. Our goal is to inform and inspire Presbyterians at worship.

Presbyterians are known as people of the *middle way*. In worship matters, we are mid-way between Episcopalians and Baptists. With Baptists we pay attention to local customs, and with Episcopalians we draw upon two-thousand years of Christian tradition. This *middle way* is reflected in our use of worship resources.

While there are a number of worship resources Presbyterians may draw upon, three are officially recognized: the *Directory for Worship*, the *Book of Common Worship*, and *The Presbyterian Hymnal*.

The *Directory for Worship* is part of the PCUSA constitution. It provides theology, guidelines, and in some cases rules for Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, the sacraments, daily prayer, and other occasions of worship. The *Directory* does not have fixed orders of worship or liturgical texts. These are found in the *Book of Common Worship*.

During the 20th century Presbyterians produced five editions of the *Book of Common Worship*. The first was published in 1906, the most recent in 1993. The *Book of Common Worship* offers specific liturgical texts like the Prayer of the Day found in each of our Sunday bulletins and the prayers of Great Thanksgiving used on communion Sundays.

Presbyterians also produced a new hymnal about every twenty years during the 20th century, the most recent in 1990. Hymnals, like the *Book of Common Worship*, are not mandated by the PCUSA constitution.

Local churches are free to use or not use them. GSPC, for example, did not purchase the 1971 hymnal but instead kept the 1955 hymnal until it was replaced by *the blue hymnal* in the mid-90's.

Options like these express a Presbyterian preference for the middle. Presbyterians favor guidelines and common practices but resist enforcing them from above. As a result, while our 12,000 congregations have many likenesses when it comes to worship practices, there are also differences reflected in local histories and customs.

Look for Sally's and Roy's articles in coming months to supply details. And, I hope you'll drop in for my classes. Advance registration is not required. We look forward to learning together about Presbyterians at worship. If you have specific questions or suggestions for topics, you may email me at george@gspcmobile.org.

Briefly . . .

On behalf of the Session, I want to express sincere appreciation to Dot White and M.R. Andrews and all of their helpers for hosting the Presbytery of South Alabama and to Terry and The Sanctuary Choir for leading worship. I can't tell you how many people remarked about GSPC's hospitality and their experience in worship.

Many thanks also to everyone, especially Linda and Shelia, for the Luncheon following Ryan's ordination. What a wonderful occasion marking the beginning in Ryan's ministry. It was a beautiful service and weekend.

God's Peace,
George

Music and Fine Arts



Terry D. Maddox, M.M., GSPC's Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries, is seen above in the Manhattan Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City on March 13, 2009, conducting the first of three rehearsals for five combined choirs (230 singers) from several states. It was feverish work to merge the voices with so little time—and work with an assembled orchestra just once—to present John Rutter's magnificent *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall three evenings later.

But that is precisely what Terry brilliantly accomplished. The March 15, 8:30 p.m. concert performed to a nearly full house in the famous Isaac Stern Auditorium (capacity: 2,804 seats) on the Ronald O. Perelman Stage, concluded with "Bravos!" and waves of resounding applause.

**See some rehearsal pictures on the back of this week's calendar insert.

World Mission Madagascar Update

15 March 2009

Thank you for your prayers.

Sometimes it does sound worse by the day. If you look at who has the advantage, it seems to flip flop day to day. Right now the President is regaining some momentum, back from the brink. We'll have to see what Rajoelina does next and if the president can capitalize on his momentum. The president has called on 40,000 to come to the palace today. We'll see what happens.

My guess is that the meeting scheduled for Monday will not happen.

17 March 2009

Elizabeth and the children have evacuated to a safe haven in South Africa. As for me, I will stay here. So far I feel safe.

Peace in Christ, Elizabeth and Dan Turk

Christian Education

Kara Olson
Director of Youth & CE

- **Thank you** to the congregation for your generous support of the Italian Lunch! Your contributions totaled \$1,169.89! Your support will help defer the cost so every youth can attend Montreat! Thanks!
- Come to **PYC this Sunday** to talk about the season of Lent! We will be discussing the importance of the season, why people give things up (or take on something new,) and some symbols and Lenten traditions! See you here at 5:30 p.m.
- PYC Senior Highs will be attending **Urban Mission Camp** July 18--23rd. If you would like to attend, please email Kara by March 29th. Thanks!
- There is still time to register for the **Women's Retreat!** It is coming soon! (March 27th-28th) Please talk to Kara ASAP if you would like to attend.

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 (ages 3 years old to 5th grade) are combined for Sunday School now through April 12th. This week they will pray at the Garden of Gethsemane together.
- Remember to read your **Lenten Devotionals** with your children and to also participate in the calendar activities.
- **Easter Egg Hunt (for infants ~ 5th graders)** Saturday, April 4th, 10:00 am in Washington Square, hosted by Brad & Laura Hassell.
 - o Food, fun, & fellowship! (Games, prizes & more)
 - o Face Painting by Holly Carrigan

IMPORTANT: Please bring to the church a dozen filled plastic eggs by April 3rd. Label your child's name and age on the outside.

- **Vacation Bible School: Crocodile Dock, Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light** June 8-12, 9 am to 1 pm. Ages 3 to 5th grade \$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.
Scripture: Matthew 28:19 **Song:** "Hosanna"
Prayer: *I see the moon. The moon sees me. God bless the moon, and God bless me. Amen*

Congregational Life

Thank you GSPC! from the Jensens

Laura and I wish to thank GSPC for the grace and love that we continue to receive. The weekend of ordination and installation was a special one to us as well as to our family and friends. We will always remember with gladness the many ways in which the members and staff of this church made this event so meaningful.

Sincerely, Ryan Jensen

Farewell to Friends!

A farewell reception will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship on March 29 to say goodbye to Gill and Martha Campbell who are moving to Montreat, NC. Everyone is invited for punch and cake.

Urban Ministry

Interfaith Hospitality Network / Family Promise
GSPC will host IHN March 22-28.

We need **Overnight Hosts** two people for Monday and Thursday night and we need one more person for Tuesday and Friday. Contact **Michon** at 432-4264 or the church office at 432-1749.

“Family Friendly” Used Book Sale

Crossroads Bookstore, 1401 Hillcrest Rd
March 26 – 28, 10 – 5:00 pm

If you are interested in donating books (CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes), please contact us. All proceeds are donated to Lifelines – Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Inc. For info, call 602-0909

McKemie Place Fundraiser

You are cordially invited to the 2nd Annual Breakfast Eggstravaganza in support of McKemie Place Shelter for Single, Homeless Women.
Thursday, March 26, 2009 • 7:30 to 8:30 am
Gerald Wallace Auditorium • Springhill Medical Center
3719 Dauphin Street
~~Tax-Deductible Donation: \$30~~

The IHN Pasta Challenge To feed our “Dancing Clergy”

Each church in the IHN network has been asked to supply a pasta dish to the “Dancing with the Clergy” fundraiser on April 24. Contact Michon Trent at 432-4264 by March 19th to help prepare GSPC’s donated dish.

“Dancing with the Clergy”

Friday, April 24 ~ Pasta Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment at:
Correction: Dauphin Way United Methodist Church
(not Central Presbyterian)

IHN / Family Promise of Coastal Alabama is hosting a fundraiser to help provide supplies for families in IHN care. Tickets are \$25 each or \$200 per table of 10. For more info, call 441-1991, or email: hmlfamilypromise@bellsouth.net.

GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

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

March 26: Jimmy Lyons,
Executive Director, Alabama State Docks

James K. Lyons has served as Director/CEO of the Alabama State Port Authority Board, since July 1, 1999. Mr. Lyons’ 36 year professional maritime industry career has encompassed marketing, financial management, transportation, stevedoring and terminal operations.

Since joining the Authority, Mr. Lyons has overseen construction of new facilities and upgrades to railroad, pier infrastructure, and equipment while taking the port from the 14th largest to the 10th largest seaport in the country. Mr. Lyons manages an organization of 650 employees, with fiscal year 2008 revenues approaching \$130 million, and handling more than 26 million tons of cargo. Mr. Lyons is currently managing the implementation of several capital programs at the port, including the \$100 million Pinto Island Terminal that will serve ThyssenKrupp’s \$4.3 billion Alabama steel mill and the \$75 million Intermodal Container Handling Facility and Logistics Park.

Mr. Lyons holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Alabama and completed the Executive Development Program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

He is married to Beth Marietta Lyons, a local attorney, and they have one son, Patrick.

Next Thursday, April 2

Elizabeth Sanders, Executive Director,
Downtown Mobile District Mgmt. Corp.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. April 5, 19 and 26th are currently available.

Lectionary Readings for March 22:

Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22;
Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Cottage Hill Presbyterian Church

Cordially invites you to our Golden Jubilee Celebration to celebrate 50 Years

Saturday, March 21, 3:00 pm * Fellowship & Fish Fry *

Sunday, March 22, 10:30 am
Worship, Reception following



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 and 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. 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: _____

