

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

Sabbatical

**by Dr. George R. Sinclair, Jr.
Pastor**

Seven years ago I accepted a call to be your pastor. Government Street is a remarkable church. I consider myself truly blessed to serve as your minister. While I look forward to my sabbatical, I will miss you. I won't miss going to meetings, but I will miss the weekly habits and relationships formed by our common life. It will be very strange to wake up tomorrow morning and not have to think about routines established over the past thirty years. Undoubtedly, this dislocation is by design part of a sabbatical leave. The space created allows us to see that what we do does not define who we are. I deeply appreciate your kind generosity in providing for this opportunity.

So, what will I be doing over the next three months?

For the next several weeks, I will spend some time in my shop. We are expecting a second grandchild this fall and I have another crib to make. I also have a list of things to do around the house, some involving a paint brush and others yard tools. By the month's end, Paula and I are expecting our daughter and grandson to arrive for an extended visit. In early June, we head to the Gulf for a week. At the end of June, we're off to the mountains, returning in early July for a second week at the Gulf. In July we head to Scotland, Ireland, and London for a two week trip. After a week's rest, I'll be back in the office August 10.

In between trips, I plan to read a stack of good books and attend worship in area churches. The view from the pew will do me some good. It will be

nice to worship and not be responsible for leading worship. I will also ride my bike regularly and go to the gym with Paula. We've never spent a summer together like this. After 36 years, it should not only be fun but interesting! I look forward to sharing our adventures with you at the summer's end.

In my absence, Dr. Al Reese will serve as Interim Head of Staff. Al will come to Mobile on Saturday night and work Sunday and Monday. Ryan will cover the bases when Al is not in town. I am deeply appreciative of both, and I am confident that things will go well with their able leadership.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. I will look forward to returning in August, rested, energized, and eager to continue my ministry with you for many more years to come. Government Street is home, and home is where we plan to stay.

God Bless and Keep You,

George

Christian Education

Kara Olson
Director of Youth & CE

*The **Montreat Parent Meeting** is this Sunday after church in the Fellowship Hall. I will provide light snacks while we write and sign our covenant, parents fill out forms, and we discuss final details. The final amount for the trip is due at this meeting (\$300 per youth, with \$270 for each additional sibling). This is a **mandatory** meeting for everyone going to Montreat.

***Youth Sunday School** this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Join Kara for Bible Study and Discussion.

*The **End of the Year Lock-In** will be May 22nd at Baytreat. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to drive over in the van. Dinner will be provided.

*PYC, interested in helping at **Vacation Bible School**? Please let Kara or Amanda know (also let them know your t-shirt size). We need help in many capacities, and all of the hours you work can count as volunteer hours for school. VBS is June 8th-12th.

Amanda Murray
Director of Children's Ministries

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers, helpers, and coordinator. I am so grateful to and thankful for you all! Thank you for taking time each week to teach, care for, love, have fun with, and create relationships with our children. It is because of each one of you that our children know stories from the Bible, strengthen their faith, and create lasting relationships in their church family. Thank you to Charlotte Crockett, our Sunday School Coordinator, and everything she does each week to make

Sunday School brighter. Thank you to Carolla Hider, our Sunday School Shepherd, for her complete devotion and love of our children. Thank you to Trenee Bain, Margaret Sue

Browning, Dorothy Morrison, James and Camille Crumb, Caroline Etherton, Joy Gardner, and Jennifer Jameson, our fabulous Sunday School Teachers. I thank you so much for all that you do each week.

Sincerely,
Amanda

- Sunday School: Charlotte Crockett will teach a **Pentecost Workshop** for children ages 3 years through 5th grade, May 17th to May 31st. The children will combine for this workshop.
- **VBS Volunteer Meeting** May 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This is a very important VBS Crocodile Dock meeting for all volunteers, including youth. Dinner will be served, and fun and ideas will happen. Please, let Amanda Murray know if you will be attending.
- May scripture, song, and prayer. With these new tools each month children can **Let their Light Shine** through song, scripture, and prayer. Parents you are encouraged to learn along with them.

Scripture: Acts 2:38

Song: I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

Prayer: "Spirit of Power...

Spirit of Life...

Spirit of Joy...

Spirit of Love...

Spirit of Peace....

Go with us as we spread your message in our world."

Vacation Bible School 2009 ~ Crocodile Dock, Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light

June 8-12, 9 am to 1 pm / Ages 3 to completed 5th grade. \$5.00 registration fee, t-shirt included. You may mail in your registration, place it in Amanda Murray's box in the office or fill it out online. Check out our VBS website at www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/VBSGSPC for more information.



Donations Needed ~ Please, attach a butterfly (located on the front desk) to the item you have donated so that we will know to whom to return the item. Thank you!

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| • Oatmeal Containers (large cylinder container) | • better) | • Gift boxes |
| • Fishing Gear (fishing rods, tackle box, nets, clothes, small boat, and etc...) | • Old Bed Sheets (any size) | • Wrapping paper |
| • Pool Noodles | • Plastic Bottles (12 oz) | • Square tissue boxes |
| • Old Shoes (funnier the | • Plastic bottle tops | • Christmas lights |
| | • Large Boxes (refrigerator) | • Crocodiles |
| | • Cardboard | • Bayou items of any kind |
| | • Newspaper | |

Congregational Life

Congratulations to Suzanne and Barney Barnhill on the birth of their granddaughter, **Grace Vaughan Damdar**. Grace was born to Virginia Vaughan Barnhill Damdar and Fionn Samuel Damdar on March 30, 2009. Virginia and Fionn live in Reigate, Surrey, England.

Congratulations to proud grandparents Skip and Deb Becker on the birth of grandson **Hugh Alwyn Becker IV**, who arrived May 10 (Mother's Day) at 6:36 pm. He weighed 7 lb and 12.6 oz. and is 19.5 inches long. Mom and Dad are doing great!

Congratulations to Brad and Kimberly Elliott on the birth of their fourth child, **Winston Elliott**, born on May 1.

Kitt Farr recently moved to Louisiana and hopes to stay in touch! Her new address is: 2420 Country Club Rd. #209
Lake Charles, LA 70605

IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson

Somerby of West. Mobile: Kitty Harris

Gordon Oaks: Thyrsa Jones (room 239), and
Harriet Norville (room 241)

Cogburn (Dauphin Connector):
Winnie Counts, and David & Betty Mechler

To be added or removed from this list please contact
Denise at 432-1749 or denise@gspcmobile.org.

Worship

Visiting Bishop

The most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, May 31, for a prayer service at 4:30 p.m. followed by a reception and conversation with those attending. We are hoping you will be able to attend and meet with the Presiding Bishop and other ecumenical leaders at 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Chapter House. This will give you a private time with her before the service begins.

This is an open, community-wide service followed by open conversation with the leader of the Anglican church here in the United States. Everyone is invited.

Please contact dean@christchurchcathedralmobile.com, or by telephone at 438-1822 if you plan to attend.

Christ Church Cathedral
115 S. Conception St.
Mobile, AL 36602

Presbyterian Women

Sanctuary Flowers from May 10th were delivered by PW to: Betty Mechler, Winnie Counts, and Edith Gilchrist.

The **PWCT** (Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team) will meet on Monday, June 22 at the Guesnard House at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a salad to share.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering!

Tuesday, May 19 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Lunch in Fellowship Hall afterward

The Least Coin Offering will be received.

Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Fellowship of the Least Coin, an ecumenical prayer movement, was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India who believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith as they prayed for peace and reconciliation and set aside the least coin of their country as a symbol of that prayer. As coins are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Music and Fine Arts

The Mobile Community Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Terry D. Maddox, M.M., will present their Spring Concert featuring John Rutter's *Requiem* and a Hoagy Carmichael Medley next Sunday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Chapel on the Spring Hill College campus. Admission is free. The Boys & Girls Club Honor Choir will perform at the beginning of the concert, and several members from the Eastern Shore Choral Society, Government Street Sanctuary Choir, and the Touro Synagogue Choir will join the singers.

Urban Ministry

IHN ~ Family Promise

IHN/Family Promise guests will be at GSPC June 28-July 5. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Please contact Michon Trent at michontrent@yahoo.com or 251-432-4264.

Richard Mighell Camp

July 7—10 at Baytreat
Contact Andy King at andy@gspcmobile.org if you are interested in volunteering.

More Items to be Included in the May 29 Silent Auction:

- Martelle Scott ~ Cheese Straws (3 dozen a month for 1 year)
George Kearney ~ Hand turned bowl made from fallen live oak from Hurricane Katrina, signed by artist
Mary Rodning ~ Water Color "Breakfast," on Shiskishi
Charles Smith ~ Raku Ceremonial Bowl, Hand Etched design, signed by artist
Denise Inge ~ Original matted Watercolor "Red"

Out of Africa:

A Missionary Expedition

silent auction...
refreshments...
fun & fellowship

Please join the expedition in support of our missionaries:

Elizabeth & Dan Turk and Nancy & Frank Dimmock

Friday, May 29 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

At the home of Bill and Leslie Cutts:

Twelve Oaks (250 Chatham Street)

Advance Tickets: \$15.00 - At the door: \$20.00

To make reservations now, please detach this form and send to the GSPC office with a check payable to **GSPC, attn: World Mission Cmte.**

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. May 17 & 24 and June 21 are currently available.

Lectionary reading for

May 17:

Acts 10:44-48;

Psalm 98;

1 John 5:1-6;

John 15:9-17

**GREEN NEWSLETTER
OPTION AVAILABLE!**

If you would prefer an e-mailed version of the news letter instead of a paper copy, please e-mail:
laura@gspcmobile.org
to make this change.