

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

What is the Parenting Class?

by Amanda Murray

Director of Children's Ministries

Last Sunday, May 3, Ryan Jensen and I began teaching a class on *Parenting in Faith* that will continue through May 24. It is a class designed for parents, parents to be, grandparents, and anyone else interested in or possibly teaching children. The class came out of a recognition that we have so many parents right now at GSPC with young children, youth, and college-aged children that we wanted to have a class that reached these families on a level that would directly affect their everyday lives. We want the class to be a beginning of more classes, retreats, workshops, and activities which would support these families as they grow and experience new challenges in their lives.

I know that as a parent, I'm always looking to learn more on parenting. Therefore, I felt that a class on parenting with faith would be a great experience for parents to discuss, learn, and grow together in faith.

Ryan stated a fact in class: we typically spend 30-40 hours a week on our children's education. This does not include the hours we invest in their social activities, sports, and extra-curricular activities. On the other hand, we spend one hour in Sunday school, one worship hour, and maybe an extra activity each week on their Christian education and spiritual growth. This may not be true for all of our families, but it is true for many. That is a striking difference in time allowance. So, how do we make the two more equal? How do we add even *one more thing* into our already busy lives? Well...how do we manage one more play date or one more sports practice or game? We do it because we have made a choice that our children's spiritual life and faith formation are so important that we will make the time and put in the effort. We'll make the **HARD CHOICE** to invest in our children's spiritual lives. Your children's faith is not like paying their life insurance each month—make a payment and be done with it. Not only must you have them participate in the life of the church, be good stewards, and go to Sunday school and PYC, but you also have to show them everyday how to live spiritually. Just as we model how we want our

children to act, eat, and study, we also must model how we want them to attend church, read the Bible, pray, and have time with God everyday.

Maybe Willie Nelson can help us better understand this situation. Ryan used a Willie Nelson song to make a point about the Bible-I loved it! The song talks about the Family Bible and how important it was on the main table in his house and of his momma's singing "Rock of Ages" at night. Does your family have a "family Bible?" Do you read from it together? What we have in our house reflects who we are. As Christians, should we not have a family Bible on our table to remind us who we are, to remind us to pray, read, and worship? I say that we should, and so here is my challenge to you: if you do have a family Bible, take it out and place it on the main family table. Watch what happens—what questions are sparked, who flips through it. Read from it, tell stories from it, and pray with it. If you do not have a family Bible, then gather your entire family together, shop and select a Bible together—one that would be perfect for your whole family. Bring it home, put everyone's name in it, place it on the table, and read from it. Then say a prayer—together. Remember the quote, "a family that prays together, stays together."

This leads me to our class topic this week: *Prayer*. We challenged our class members to find time 3 times this week to pray with their families. They could choose the when, where, and how—they just had to do it three times. I have thought about those class members and pray for them as they journey through this challenge. I look forward to hearing from them on Sunday.

I hope you will come to our class this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. The class is designed to be a forum to talk about bringing spirituality into your home and lives everyday- not just Sunday. Over the next few weeks we will build on how to pray, read scripture, have devotions, and eventually how to worship in your home. We welcome everyone.

In Christ, Amanda

Music and Fine Arts

Opportunities to support our fabulous Music Director, some GSPC choir members, and enjoy beautiful music!

- May 17 (Sunday) at 7:00 p.m.— **The Mobile Community Chorus presents** John Rutter's *Requiem* and a Hoagy Carmichael Medley at Spring Hill College, St. Joseph Chapel.
- June 23 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.— **The Mobile Community Chorus presents** *A Patriotic Celebration of Song* at Spring Hill College, St. Joseph Chapel.

Christian Education

Kara Olson
Director of Youth & CE

- Youth **Sunday School** continues Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you here as we talk about Exodus, and for the Junior Highs, Exodus and hearing God's call.
- There will be a **mandatory Montreat Parent Meeting** May 17 Noon for all youth who are going to Montreat, and their parents.
- End of the Year **Lock-In at Baytreat** May 22. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to head to Baytreat!

Amanda Murray
Director of Children's Ministries

- **Thank you** to everyone who returned their volunteer forms for VBS. I am so excited to have the support. Look for a letter soon with details about your volunteering.
- **PARENTS NIGHT OUT** was a blast! We ate, played crocodile games, "fellowshipped" with one another, and watched a movie. Thank you to all of the parents who supported the youth with donations.
- **A special thank you to all of the youth** who came to help with Parents Night Out. It was a wonderful feeling to watch the youth and the children play together, the youth help the little ones, dance with

one another, giggle together, and love one another. I was filled with joy and optimism to see the community and family we have created here at GSPC. The youth are a blessing to our church. They love the children of this church and are nurturing in them love that will carry to our next set of little ones. I thank the youth for all of their help because without them, there would be no Parents Night Out! Thank you for all that you do. You are the spirit in action of this church.

- **Happy Mother's Day to all of the GSPC Mothers!**
- Sunday School: Charlotte Crockett will teach a **Pentecost Workshop** for children ages 3 to 5th grade, May 17th to May 31st. The children will combine for this workshop.
- May scripture, song, and prayer. With these new tools each month they can **Let their Light Shine** through song, scripture, and prayer. 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 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!

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

Worship

Presbyterians at Worship

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 several months, Worship Committee members Roy Nichols and Sally Pearsall will address these and other questions through a series of articles. Meanwhile, throughout the year, Dr. George Sinclair will lead occasional adult studies on worship. The next will be August 16th from 9:30-10:30 in the Church Library.

Our goal is to inform and inspire Presbyterians at worship.

Liturgical Calendar

by Roy D. Nichols, Jr.

I remember sitting in church as a youngster marveling at how the church was able to weave together the major events in Jesus' life and fit them all into just one calendar year. The strategy for doing this is referred to as the *Liturgical Calendar*.

The calendar begins with Advent or the foretelling of Jesus' coming. This, of course, is followed by the Christmas story.

Epiphany comes next: the realization that Jesus was divine including the stories of the Magi's visit, Jesus' baptism and the performance of miracles.

Lent follows Epiphany anticipating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Holy Week is a time of atonement and the story of the death of Jesus Christ.

Finally, we hear the spectacular story of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

Pentecost comes next, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

There are, of course, periods when no particular Christian holidays are being celebrated. These periods are referred to as *Ordinary Time*, but there is nothing ordinary about the story of our faith as it is woven together in the Liturgical Calendar.

Lectionary reading for May 10:

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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.

Presbyterian Women

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.

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

Presbyterian Women delivered the Youth Sunday **Sanctuary Flowers** to: Margaret Brown, Margaret Sue Oswald, Molly Crown and Mary Knox Middleton.

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald at 478-3087 to reserve a date.

May 17 & 24 and June 21 are currently available.

2009 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

God Will Do Wonders Among You!

July 11-15, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky

The Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women provides an opportunity to nurture your faith in community with women from around the world; learn about mission opportunities and justice and peace issues; develop leadership skills; participate in workshops; hear from Bible study leaders and plenary speakers; meet new friends, including Global Partners from around the world; and much more!

Visit www.pcusa.org/pwgathering/ for additional info.

Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 12—Worship, Mission, and Christian Education committees are scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m.

GSPC Forum Series Committee—Wednesday, May 13, 12 p.m. ~ 1 p.m., in the Parlor, to discuss the fall lineup.

**Included in the May 29
Silent Auction:**

Overnight Accommodations and
Father's Day Brunch

Radisson Admiral Semmes

Children's Bible Stories Handmade
Quilt

Dianne Davidson

Blackberry Wine Pound Cake

Charlotte Naylor

Crocheted Winter White Baby Hat,
Booties, and Blanket

Jane Smith

Montreat Vacation Home (3 days)

Martha and Gill Campbell

to submit donations, please
contact Donna Misra 680-1244

Out of Africa:

A Missionary Expedition

silent auction...refreshments ...fun & fel-

Please join the expedition
in support of our missionaries:

**Elizabeth & Dan Turk and Nancy & Frank Dim-
mock**

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 Mis-**



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 Connector):** Winnie Counts, and David and Betty Mechler

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