

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

SIGNIFICANCE!

by Terry Maddox, Director of Music

Next week Mobile will host an unbelievable array of events full of historic and religious symbols that represent the struggles and meaning of faith founded through the ages by the patriarchies and matriarchies of our heritage as Mobilians and Christians. I dare say that no where else in the world do we have the unique mixture of heritage and faith as we do here in Mobile, as Christians, on “Joe Cain Sunday!”

The rudimentary facts of “Joe Cain Sunday” are these. The Civil War had halted all revelry. Mobile was under Union control. During the occupation, several ruthless edicts had come down from Union leaders in an effort to break the will of Mobilians. Joseph Stillwell Cain was a store clerk in Mobile in 1865. It was against this back drop that Cain, in 1866, decided the best way to accomplish a reawakening of the spirit was to revitalize the Kraft Parade – the celebration of Mardi Gras in Mobile, which had been halted during the conflict.

One night, Joe Cain led a group of revelers in a parade through the city, using a “borrowed” coal wagon and dressed in an improvised costume. His attire depicted a Chickasaw Indian Chief from the local Wragg Swamp, and Cain called himself “Chief Slacabamorinico.” The significance of choosing this character was a backhanded insult to the Union forces as the Chickasaw had never surrendered during the Civil War. The parade continued and gave Mobile back her spirit and pride, allowing the city to hold its collective head up and continue to push forward.

As we also know, it was on May 28, 1950, under the leadership of then Senior Pastor, Dr. J. Chester Frist, that Government Street Presbyterian Church voted to remain located at 300 Government Street. So, with the melding of these two roads of history, the faithful of Government Street Presbyterian

Church find ourselves faced with a unique challenge of commitment every “Joe Cain Sunday.”

If we wish to come to church and worship, we become like our Jewish friends who, after 1939 and the invasion of Poland and throughout the rise and fall of the Reich, had to “wear” symbols of their faith. The symbols marking them as “Jude” – “Jew” were either white armbands with a blue Star of David or a yellow patch of cloth with a Star of David. These were placed on the left arm, or breast plate or back area of the clothing they wore. We must “wear” our badge of faith with this year’s design of a Celtic Cross on a green card in our cars to get through the police barricades. We show how we are called by Christ to worship him even during a time of modern day historic revelry.

Once we survive all of this, we have the “Christian” walk of Lent and Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent which occurs forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays). Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance. The ashes used are gathered after the palm fronds from the previous year’s Palm Sunday are burned. In the liturgical practice of some churches, the ashes are mixed with oil. This paste is used by the clergy who presides at the service to make the sign of the cross, first upon his own forehead and then on each of those present who kneel/bow before him at the altar. As he does so, he recites the words: “Remember (O man) that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be next Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. Please take both this opportunity and one to worship at 10 a.m. on Joe Cain Sunday as your personal statement of faith in the Journey of walking with Jesus in this special time of the liturgical calendar.

Pax!

Terry

Deacon's Corner



Ben Hutson and Linda Reynolds

I am just getting to know **Ben Hutson**, an interesting 96-year-young special friend. Mr. Hutson, a retired electrical engineer, is the father of GSPC member Ken Hutson, father-in-law of Libby, and friend to many.

My special friend has several interests, including being an Atlanta Braves fan. His current endeavor, however, is being crowned King of Mardi Gras at Westminster Village on Valentine's Day. He and his queen, Mrs. Michner, will have a coronation convertible ride around the village before being officially crowned in a special ceremony in front of his subjects.

This photo shows Mr. Hutson with me modeling some of the Mardi Gras beads I gave him.

Linda Reynolds, Deacon, Class of 2011

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!



The Worship Committee, at its meeting on February 10, unanimously agreed to temporarily suspend the Acolyte program.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Etherton or George Sinclair.

Thank you. Caroline

Christian Education

There is no Sunday School February 22 due to Joe Cain Day. Worship is at 10 am

PYC ~ Kara Olson, Director of Youth & CE

- **"Don't Miss the Ship!"** GSPC's 2009 **Women's Retreat** is **March 27th and 28th!** Women of the church should have received a brochure with a registration form in the mail last week. ♪ Please note ♪ – the dates (28-29th) were incorrect in the brochure. If you did not receive the mailing, or need another form, contact Kara at 434-9322. Registration forms are due back to Kara by March 8th.
- **PYC** - No event on Joe Cain Sunday, February 22
- On Saturday, February 28th we will play **Paintball** with Overlook Presbyterian at "Extreme Paintball" on Schillinger Road. The cost is \$10. Please RSVP to Kara if you are coming!
- Junior High and Senior High Youth Council Retreat **"iRun with God"** is happening on March 14 and 15th. Please return your registration forms to Kara ASAP!
- **The Covenant Class** will begin studying the Interpretation Bible Study Series study on Jeremiah on March 8th. Books will be available in the church office before the class begins. Contact Kara Olson or Jim Hood with any questions.
- **The Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will begin a new study, "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship" on Tuesday March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Books are available in the church office.
- Virginia Guy will be doing a Special Sunday School Class on Sunday March 15th about Substance Abuse. More information will follow in next week's newsletter!
- **Montreat Fundraisers are on:**
3/7—Set up for Italian Lunch
3/8—Host and serve the Italian Lunch
and 5/1—Parent's Night Out
If you are attending Montreat, it is mandatory to attend!!

Amanda Murray

Director of Children's Ministries

- **The children (ages 3 years old to 5th grade) will have a combined Lent Study beginning March 1st and continuing through April 12th. We will explore Lent and Easter and everything in between.**

Congregational Life

One of the upright freezers in the church basement went out last week. It was very old and served the church well. Before we look at repairing or replacing it, the kitchen staff would gladly receive one that may be cluttering up a garage or basement somewhere. If you have an extra, please call the church office at 432-1749. Thank you!

Attention Eastern Shore Residents!

The Evangelism and Membership Committee invites you to **join us at Westminster Village** for dinner and a conversation about your communities. This event will take place on **Thursday, March 5 at 6:30.**

Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. March 22 and 29 are currently available.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES AND IN THE HOSPITAL

Allen Memorial: Mary Marvin Anderson

Somerby of W. Mobile: Kitty Harris

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

Cogburn (Dauphin Con.): Winnie Counts, and David and Betty Mechler

Mobile Infirmary West: Blair Newman

South Baldwin Hospital: Hal Wheeler

NOTES:

- **COMMUNION** ~ ASH WEDNESDAY 6 PM
- **NEXT WEEK IS A SHORT WEEK** DUE TO MARDI GRAS. IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- THE **PRESBYTERY MEETING** IS AT GSPC FEBRUARY 27 & 28.
- **BAYTREAT WORK DAY** ~ SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** TO HELP WITH SPRING CLEANING!

Lectionary Readings for February 22:

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6; 2 Cor. 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

Lectionary Reading for February 25,

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12; Ps. 51:1-17;
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

Next Thursday,
March 5

Andy Anderson,
Artistic Director of the
Mobile Opera

GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

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

February 26: Chris Barraza, Mobile Area Young Professionals Alliance

Chris also serves as the Neighborhood and Community Services Assistant Manager.

“Under Mayor Jones’ leadership, the City’s Office of Special Events and the Main Street Mobile offices have merged to form the new Neighborhood & Community Services office.

Through our combined efforts, we are taking our revitalization efforts into all seven districts by engaging our neighborhood action groups and citizens so that they are more informed and aware of the services that the entire city can and does provides them.

What we’re doing:

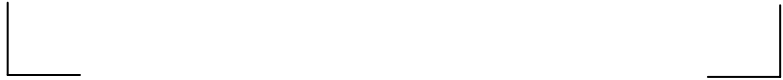
- An annual neighborhood & community awards recognition ceremony
- Annual Litter and Trash Summit
- Establish a Neighborhood College
- Create a Mobile Connection Newsletter for neighborhoods
- Produce city-wide special events
- Work with neighborhood organizations to create or enhance events there

The Dauphin Street office produces:

- Brown Bag in Bienville Concerts
- Sunday Concert Series in the Spring
- 4th of July Celebration
- Kids Days in both Bienville and Langan Parks
- BayFest
- The Mobile International Festival
- Santa’s Calling
- The Mobile Christmas & Holiday Parade
- & the New Year’s Eve Celebration

The Downtown Office produces:

- Arts Alive! Hands On
- The monthly LoDa ArtWalks
- The Market on the Square
- The Market in the Park
- Dauphin Street Int’l Beer Festival
- Lighting of the Tree in Bienville
- & the Downtown Banner Program”



Urban Ministry

A Poem from Friday Morning

May your lives be ever easy,
on calm seas, with sunny
days and gentle breezes.
And if a storm should
ever come,
remember that God
loves you. And so do I.

Sincerely,
W. Anthony Lamar
Coffee Club guest

Volunteers Pitch In!

It only took a dozen phone calls and a dozen or so people to fill in for Shelia last week while she rested at home with a nasty respiratory infection. Bobby and Ben stepped up to the plate by putting the early a.m. coffee on and getting the grits water boiling. Recruited Coffee Club chefs included **Dot White, Becky Baumhauer, Edward Ogburn, Bo Perry, Andy King, Marriner Smith, Ralph Lawrence and Nancy Bentley** who arrived at 6:30 a.m., Tuesday—Friday to prepare a hot breakfast for our Coffee Club guests. Second shift included **Sally Pearsall, Jane Smith, Wanda Lawrence, Dot White, Denise Lamby and Linda Killilea** who arrived at 8:30 a.m. to prepare the bagged lunches and hot suppers for our four Meals on Wheels routes and to cook and serve the Thursday Forum guests. Many thanks to everyone who gladly pitched in when help was needed. **And welcome back Shelia!**

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

We need volunteers for:

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