

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

## **Ordination**

“Ordination is the act by which the church sets apart persons to be presbyters (ministers of Word and Sacrament or elders) or deacons, and is accompanied with prayer and the laying on of hands.”

*PCUSA Constitution*

Ordination, like baptism, is a once-in-a-life-time *act*. While elders and deacons are ordained by sessions, ministers are ordained presbyteries. On Sunday, March 1, South Alabama Presbytery will ordain Ryan Jensen on behalf of the Presbyterian Church USA. I hope every member of GSPC will be present. And for those not able, I trust you will be with us in spirit. This is a great day not only in Ryan’s life, but also in the life of the whole church.

The road to ordination is not easy. It requires disciplined learning, faithful living, determination, and not a little endurance. Following four years of undergraduate study, Ryan completed three years of graduate work at Austin Seminary and gained practical experience during his internship with a local church. Along the way, he was poked and prodded as an Inquirer and Candidate for Ministry. He then successfully completed the Bible Content Exam and four three-hour exams on Bible Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity. In addition, he wrote a Statement of Faith and defended it before our Presbytery.

The Presbyterian Church USA is careful about who it ordains. Biblical and theological competencies are integral, but so are personal faith and character. Ministers see human beings at their best and their worst, when they are vulnerable and needful. The office demands both knowledge and trustworthiness. The road to ordination tests both.

Ministers are not so much born as made. Ministry is acquired. It does not come naturally. Or, perhaps better, ministry is a gift received. The receiving of that gift takes a community. Ministers are not made in isolation. They require nurture from congregations, mentors, teachers, and the books they read. Government Street can count itself blessed to be a partner with Ryan as he travels this road.

Please join us March 1. Following the 11:00 a.m. service, a Congregational Luncheon in Ryan’s honor will be shared with his family and invited guests in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Briefly . . .**

Lenten services will be held each Thursday morning beginning March 5. The sanctuary will be opened for prayer and meditation at 11:30. At 11:50, participants will be invited to the Lord’s Table for readings from Mark’s Passion and Communion. Services will conclude by 12 noon so that those who choose may join the Thursday Lunch Forums. Services continue each Thursday through Holy Week.

On Sunday, March 8, Bill Wills, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega, will be our guest speaker following the Italian Luncheon hosted by our youth. The Sanctuary Choir will also present a Lenten Concert that Sunday.

Finally, in order to prepare **Baytreat, a Workday** has been set for Saturday, March 14, from 8-11 a.m. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Over 225 youth are registered for our 2009 summer Urban Mission Camps!

God’ Peace,  
George

## World Mission Madagascar Update

19 February 2009

Dear Friends,

Four ministries were taken today without bloodshed by the Mr. Rajoelina's people: public security, aménagement du territoire, education, and interior. Dan saw footage from VIVA TV. At the ministry of public security, they broke into the building with a crowbar. At the interior ministry, they used a chisel and hammer to break open locked doors. At another ministry they broke a chain with lock cutters. At the public security and interior ministries they kept breaking open locked doors until reaching the minister's office where they took down president Ravalomanana's picture. Our understanding is that Mr. Rajoelina's people will be staying the night at the ministries to keep the Ravalomanana security forces from getting them back. Mr. Rajoelina's people say they will continue to take other ministries tomorrow.

The Mr. Rajoelina's minister of interior security (ministry of public security of Ravalomanana, essentially the ministry of national police) said that he was giving the police 48 hours to report for duty.

Please join us in praying for the Malagasy people. Friday could be a day of conflict if the Mr. Rajoelina's people continue their attempt to take over ministry buildings and the government tries to stop them. Please pray that the government will be able to address the ministry building take-overs wisely. Please pray for all parties (church leaders, national and international leaders) that are trying to help in this crisis to deal with it effectively and wisely. Please pray that a way be found for the crisis to end quickly and for the government to address the concerns of the people. Everyday the crisis continues to hurt the people as businesses stop and the economy stalls and prices go up.

Here is a statement that Great Britain put out on Feb. 18:  
**Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch-Brown issued a statement on the unrest in Madagascar.**

*I have been following the situation in Madagascar with growing concern and have been particularly disturbed by the loss of lives in the current unrest. The atmosphere of confrontation and the disruption it has caused will serve only to worsen the lives of the majority of Malagasy people. Any attempt to remove a democratically elected Government through unconstitutional means is unacceptable. President Ravalomanana and his administration were elected through Presidential and Parliamentary elections that were endorsed by international monitors. Their democratic legitimacy should be respected, and all parties in Madagascar should abide by the normal electoral process.*

We continue to feel safe. We will be avoiding downtown tomorrow.

Peace in Christ, Elizabeth and Dan Turk

## Christian Education

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.
- **Paintball!** This Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, at noon! If you would like to meet in the church parking lot and car pool together please RSVP to me! The cost is \$10. Please also sign and print a form from <http://www.xpb.us/XtremePaintball-1574.pdf>. Meet at the church at 11:15 to carpool! Thanks!
- **Italian Lunch ~ Set up** at GSPC Saturday, **March 7.**
- **Italian Lunch** ~ March 8th. PYC fundraiser after service in Fellowship Hall.
- 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 on Jeremiah March 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> about Substance Abuse. More information will follow in next week's newsletter.
- **Montreat Fundraisers:**  
3/7—Set up for Italian Lunch  
3/8—Host and serve the Italian Lunch  
5/1—Parent's Night Out  
If you are attending Montreat, it is mandatory to participate!

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 will continue through April 12th. We will explore Lent and Easter and everything in between.

# Congregational Life

## Carnegie Hall Performance

Sunday, March 15th ~ 8:00 p.m.

Members of GSPC Sanctuary Choir along with members of Mobile Community Chorus, Eastern Shore Choral Society and Touro Synagogue of New Orleans, Louisiana will join together under the name "The Greater Mobile Bay Area Choral Association" to present John Rutter's *Requiem* in Carnegie Hall in New York City under the direction of Mr. Terry D. Maddox, M.M.

## 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.**

**Christian sympathy** is extended to the family and friends of **Mr. Harry S. (Hal) Wheeler**, who died Tuesday, February 17. A graveside service was held at Pinecrest on Thursday, February 19.

**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.**

## 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

## World Day of Prayer ~ March 6th

Presbyterian Women: Uniting the World in Prayer

There are many ways to share with others around the globe in offering prayer and praise to our one Creator. For over a century, Presbyterian Women have sought to focus one day of the year on the mission of the church worldwide. Today, an ecumenical and international observance is held on the World Day of Prayer, which is the first Friday in March. More than 170 countries and regions now participate in this observance.

Through World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to:

- become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them, and
- become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

Excerpted from [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Please visit that site for more information on World Day of Prayer.

## GOVERNMENT STREET LUNCH FORUM

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

**March 5: Andy Anderson,**  
Artistic Director, Mobile Opera



photo: Bill Starling

In spring of 2008, Maestro Andy Anderson was named Artistic Director of Mobile Opera. Anderson has been praised by critics and audiences alike for his "sensitive and lyrical" conducting. Paul Horsley of the Kansas City Star said of Maestro Anderson, "To hold together a performance like this and make it *fun* for performers and listeners is a rare gift." On his debut with Mobile Opera, conducting *Lucia di Lammermoor*, the Mobile Press-Register said, "This marks an impressive debut for Artistic Director Andy Anderson."

A noted interpreter of the works of Giacomo Puccini, Mr. Anderson is founder and Artistic Director of the Kansas City Puccini Festival.

Before moving to Mobile in the summer of 2008, Maestro Anderson was the Artistic Director of Civic Opera Theater of Kansas City. For eight seasons Anderson was Music Director of the Kansas City Civic Orchestra. While Music Director, the orchestra grew from a community orchestra to a major orchestral "voice" in the Kansas City area.

The year 2008 marks Anderson's tenth year as the assistant conductor of the Colorado MahlerFest in Boulder, Colorado and he held the same post for three seasons with the Kansas City Ballet. In August of 2000, Anderson joined the production staff of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Prior to coming to Kansas City, Mr. Anderson was the assistant conductor of the Natchitoches – Northwestern Symphony Orchestra, in his home state of Louisiana.

**Next Thursday, March 12**  
**Scott Speck, Music Director,**  
**Mobile Symphony**

## *Urban Ministry*

### **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.**

### **Lenten Communion Schedule**

Thursday March 5, 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday March 12, 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday March 19, 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday March 26, 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, April 2, 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, April 9, 11:30 a.m.

### **Lectionary Readings for March 1:**

Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22;  
Mark 8:31-38

### **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](mailto:laura@gspcmobile.org) if  
you would like to make this change.  
Thank you!**