

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

**How the Mighty Have Fallen**  
**Dr. Al Reese**

That enigmatic phrase by King David's historian also describes the solemn events in the life of GSPC for the last month. Harriet Moore, Ben Hutson, Kitty Harris, and David Mechler were certainly among the fallen mighty who have entered what Augustine called the Church Triumphant, about whom John wrote:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

Revelation 14:13

And in another place John continues:

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands, and they sang with a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the lamb.

Revelation 7:9-10

In addition to these four saints, we have also lost Charlotte Crockett's great Aunt Evelyn Shriner, who helped Charlotte arrange the Easter lilies at GSPC for 18 years; Henrietta Perry, Leslie Cutts' beloved "Granny"; and Raymond Groom, who grew up in this church, was the brother of Jean Wentworth, and is now buried with his wife at Pinecrest Cemetery.

A normal year of funerals at GSPC is 12-15. For all of these deaths to occur so closely has meant for us a lot of mourning but also a lot of celebration, for they were truly the kind of saints we still sing about:

I sing a song to the saints of God, patient and  
brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died, for the  
Lord they loved I knew,

*And two were fixers, and one was a queen, and  
one had a vision no one else had seen,  
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.  
Well done, good and faithful servants. Enter into  
the joy of your Lord.*

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*  
(GRAND ISLE)

Shifting gears, I want the church to be aware that in James Tamblyn we have a fabulous heir to the wonderful folks who preceded him in this church, both as fixers and electronic geniuses. (Carl Haug, Charles Walker, and Buck Tamblyn to name only a few.) As most of you know, James "wires" the ministers every Sunday morning before worship. What many of you do not know is that he walks this building from attic to basement every Sunday; he is the heating/cooling system fixer, the electrical fixer, and the fixer of many other difficult and expensive crises which occur daily in the life of a church which lives downtown in a 175 year old building. I frankly don't know what we would do around here without James and his wonderful family. They are jewels and more than worthy successors to that unique group which went before them, including James' mother and father (Abbie, James' mother, is still very much around with her brilliant charm and wit, and one of the favorite special friends of our Deacons) and his Aunt Ann. The Tamblyn name is synonymous with all this is good about Presbyterians in the South, and it has been my joy to work with five families of them in Mississippi and Alabama. Thank you, James!

George and Paula will return in five weeks. They will be traveling in Scotland, Ireland, and England over the next few weeks, so say a prayer for God's safety to accompany them as well as a prayer of gratitude for what George and Paula mean to the life of this church.

Peace, Al

# Christian Education

**Amanda N. Murray, Director of Children's Ministries**

- What a wonderful week my family had at Montreat with the youth. We are truly thankful to have spent a week with the GSPC youth. It was wonderful to see my husband experience a youth conference at a place that has always meant so much to me, to watch Ella make friends with other kids, to play in the (cold!) creek with August, and to spend time with everyone from GSPC. I am thankful for the opportunity to experience a week with some of the wonderful youth, who loved my children, cared for them, and made them laugh. Ella will always remember spending time with the girls she loves and August will always be reminded of riding the school bus with John. Thank you for allowing my family to have such a great week with the GSPC youth, Kara Olson, and Gail Headrick.
- **PYC Urban Mission Campers**—Meet in the GSPC parking lot at 4 p.m. on July 18<sup>th</sup>. You will then head over the bay with Ryan and Laura Jensen. “What to bring” letters will go out this week.
- **PYC Sunday School Schedule:**
  - July 12<sup>th</sup>- Jade and Eddie Bishop will be teaching in the youth room.
  - July 19<sup>th</sup>- Ryan Jensen will be leading the lesson.
  - July 26<sup>th</sup>- Ryan Jensen will be leading the lesson again.
  - Aug 2- Jade and Eddie Bishop will be teaching in the youth room.

## Music & Fine Arts

Compact Discs (CDs) of the *“Rutter Requiem”* concert of May 17 and the *“Patriotic Concert”* of June 23 are available for sale. If you would like to purchase one, they are \$25 each. Please make your check payable to Nomad Productions.

To purchase a CD please make a note of which program you would like, attach your check to the note and place the note and check in the mailbox of Terry Maddox, Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries, located in the GSPC office (by the copy machine.)

*Honor your loved one with a Sunday Sanctuary Flower arrangement. Contact Binky Oswald, 478-3087, to reserve a date. July 12 and August 9 & 16 are currently available.*

Taken from Hungry Hearts, Spring 2009. Hungry Hearts is a quarterly Journal of Reformed Spirituality. Published by the Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)

### Renewable Energy

by Tammy Wiens, Editor  
continued from last week

It Kinda Makes Me Wonder . . .

It kinda makes me wonder how much greener our lives would be if we intentionally recovered a spiritual practice of Sabbath keeping. By simply following the sacred rhythm God set out for us at creation, we would find healing for our souls as well as healing for the earth. What if we were to imitate the Jewish tradition of Shabbat in which we refrain from all use of technology for a 24-hour period each week? What if we only went places that were within walking distance on Sundays? What if we unplugged every appliance in our homes for the better part of a day? Without a doubt we'd reduce our carbon footprint, but think, too, of our reduced stress, our improved physical health, and our spiritual well-being!

Most of us are not ready for such a radical conversion, but we could take simpler steps toward a recovery of Sabbath practices. God knows it won't be easy. That's probably why God listed “remember to keep the Sabbath” among the Ten Commandments instead of leaving “resting” up to our discretion. Initially, we may wonder what to do with our day if we're not catching up on work. But in time, the Spirit will feed our imagination for how best to enjoy Sabbath. Oh, sure, we'll go back to work on Monday and more than likely resort to the habit of running ourselves ragged all week long, but we'll do so with a new awareness of the rest that awaits us. And while we rest, all of creation rests, too. That's what I call “renewable energy.”

To read more from Hungry Hearts visit <http://www.pcusa.org/spiritualformation>. You can also request a copy of this free quarterly publication be delivered to your home.

### IN OUR PRAYERS AT NURSING HOMES

**Allen Memorial:** Mary Marvin Anderson

**Gordon Oaks:** Thyrza Jones (room 162)  
Harriet Norville (skilled care)  
Warren Norville

**Cogburn (Dauphin Connector):**

Winnie Counts  
Betty Mechler

To be added or removed from this list please contact Denise at 432-1749 or [denise@gspcmobile.org](mailto:denise@gspcmobile.org). Thank you!

# Congregational Life

- The **Richard Mighell Day Camp** is taking place Tuesday through Friday of this week at Baytreat. 24 children from the Sonny Callahan branch of The Boys & Girls Club are participating.
- July 12 (Sunday worship)—Reverend Ryan Jensen will be preaching.
- July 12 (Sunday) from 5-7:00 p.m., James Crumb and the **Men's Friday morning Bible Study** group will host a **welcome cook-out at Baytreat for the 6th Urban Mission Camp**. A group of 28 campers is expected from two churches: Spring Valley Presbyterian, Columbia, South Carolina, and Trinity Presbyterian, Travelers Rest, South Carolina.
- July 14—The **World Mission Committee** will meet the 2nd Tuesday this month. The meeting will be held at Martelle Scott's home: 1212 Selma Street.
- July 15—Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., **Pastor's Lunch** with Ryan Jensen is scheduled at Westminster Village.

**Thank you volunteers** for all of your help with the IHN visit last week!!! For those who signed up for laundry, don't forget to grab your bag from the church office.

A graveside memorial service was held on Saturday, July 4 at Mobile Memorial Gardens for Mr. David L. Mechler, Sr., who died July 1. Dr. Al Reese officiated.

The Mechler family at the Guesnard House for David and Betty's 50th wedding anniversary celebration in 1998.



David Jr., David Sr., Betty, and Marcia Mechler

# Presbyterian Women

**The Presbyterian Women Directory** ~ if you have any **changes** you would like to add, change, or have removed from the directory please call the office, 432-1749, or email your changes to [laura@gspcmobile.org](mailto:laura@gspcmobile.org). Thank you.

## Worship

### BAPTISM, A SIGN AND SEAL

by Sally H. Pearsall

The proud parents are holding their beautiful baby dressed in an heirloom baptismal gown. The congregation is smiling, some with tears in their eyes. The parents promise to bring their precious little one up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The congregation as a whole is asked to promise to undertake responsibility for "the Christian nurture of this child."

Why do we baptize babies, when they can't possibly know what's going on? And why is the congregation asked to make that promise?

Our *Book of Order* states, "The Baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith." *W-2.3008 b*. As Presbyterians, we baptize infants and adults.

The congregation takes the place of what are called "godparents" in other denominations. (Poor little Presbyterian children—they don't receive gifts from godparents!)

Our Lord Jesus instituted the two sacraments celebrated by Presbyterians, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus was baptized by John, and later commissioned his disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."

Again, from the *Book of Order*: "We believe that Baptism is received only once...The Presbyterian Church (USA) recognizes all Baptisms with water in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit administered by other Christian churches." *W-2.3008 c*.

When a Baptism takes place, each Christian should remember his or her own Baptism with thanksgiving, and respond anew to God's love and grace.

**August 16th Dr. George Sinclair will lead the next worship class.**

## *Urban Ministry*

### **ADOPT-A-SCHOOL**

In partnership with Mobile County Training School (MCTS), GSPC provides teaching materials, computers, printers, furniture, lawn equipment, hygiene kits, school supplies and uniform clothing to middle school students in support of their education. MCTS welcomes donations of goods and/or services to be used for student and teacher incentives. They also welcome volunteers.

#### **Items needed for 2009-2010 school year:**

- School supplies (pens, paper, pencils, dividers, 3” binders)
- Book bags (clear or mesh)
- Computers, printers, and accessories
- Office equipment
- Any items that could be useful in a Middle School

There is a donation box under the brochure rack outside the church office. To arrange pickup for large donations contact John Otts, 599-2311 or Julia Simmons, 343-0117.

#### **Lectionary reading for July 12:**

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

### **Family Promise of Coastal Alabama**

is celebrating six years of service to  
homeless families with a

Summer Benefit Concert featuring “*Orphan Soul*”

Saturday, July 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Dayspring Baptist Church  
2200 Cody Road, Mobile, Alabama 36695

A love offering will be taken to benefit  
homeless families with children

For more information call Family Promise at  
251-441-1991 or email

[hmlfamilypromise@bellsouth.net](mailto:hmlfamilypromise@bellsouth.net)

### **GREEN NEWSLETTER OPTION NOW AVAILABLE!**

GSPC now offers an on-line version of this weekly newsletter. If you would prefer an e-mailed version instead of a paper copy, please e-mail:  
[laura@gspcmobile.org](mailto:laura@gspcmobile.org) to make this change.