

ISSUE # 10

May 26, 2010

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

“Called to Serve”

In the year 1985...the top song on the Billboard charts was “Careless Whisper” by George Michael and Wham!

...the highest-grossing movie was *Back to the Future* and the Oscar winner for Best Picture was *Amadeus*.

...women wore shoulder pads to work, men thought *Miami Vice* was the coolest thing in fashion, Ronald Reagan was President, and Apple only made personal computers.

Most importantly for Downtown Mobile, 1985 was the year a group of committed believers at Government Street Presbyterian Church felt called to serve their community. They saw a need to provide a quality breakfast to those in need. They realized that their church could not exist in isolation but had to be a vibrant Christian witness that was truly open to all. It would be a place where the rich and poor would meet together, knowing that the Lord God is maker of them all.

This dream made real is what we now call Coffee Club. The reality is that Coffee Club serves between 100-150 people a full breakfast five times a week. The reality is that many volunteers serving countless hours along with a dedicated kitchen staff have made this ministry possible. The reality is that Coffee Club served as the beginning but not the end of Urban Ministry at GSPC- a ministry that reaches from Urban Mission Camps to Habitat for Humanity to Meals on Wheels to Interfaith Hospitality Network.

As you can see GSPC has come a long way since 1985! And to celebrate how far the church has come and to recognize those that have helped it get there we are going to have a celebration! Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 18th** for a **25th Anniversary Urban Ministry Celebration**. The Rev. Joe Donaho, the founding father of Coffee Club, will be preaching that Sunday. We will be recognizing all of our Coffee Club volunteers past and present as well as our incredible staff. There

will also be a luncheon after the service to honor those that have helped with Urban Ministry at GSPC.

An event like this that celebrates so much needs your help. The Urban Ministry Committee is looking for the name of anyone who has volunteered any time with Coffee Club, any pictures or stories you might wish to share, and people willing to help with the luncheon itself. Please contact Don Carlisle, Debbie Bruker or me if you can help.

In addition to our anniversary celebration, summer can only mean one thing for Urban Ministry at GSPC - **the arrival of Urban Mission Campers**. Starting June 5th, Baytreat will play host to 130 high school students from eight different states for six sessions of camp. We will be the ones wearing the blue UMC t-shirts during Sunday worship. Please feel free to welcome the campers to Mobile and GSPC when you see them. I would also like to thank those groups that have volunteered to provide dinner for the campers on Sunday nights.

25 years is a long time. A lot has changed at both GSPC and Mobile. We have gained and lost pastors and staff, celebrated weddings and baptisms, said goodbye to old friends and welcomed new ones. One thing has stayed constant during that time. This is a downtown church that feels called to serve and lives out that call in many different ways. May God give us the strength to continue the work that we do, the wisdom to move to follow the call in new directions, and the compassion to love both friend and stranger alike. **Amen.**



Scott Spence
Seminary Intern

Worship

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, May 30th

Prov. 8:1-4; 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Volunteers Sunday, May 30th

Sunday Assistants:	Ashford Kettler and Charlotte Crockett
Greeters:	Helen Alford; Margaret Sue and John Browning
Sanctuary Preparer:	Harriett Felis
Usher Captain:	Dusty Neff
Nursery Volunteers:	Shelley and Ed Bennett
Wee Worship Leaders:	Sally and Brent Ericson
Office Volunteer:	Elyse Marley
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Charlotte Crockett, 478-1003/591-7902 Dibber Lutz, 473-7582/433-5756

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 6th

1 Kings: 17:8-16 (17-24); Ps. 146; Gal. 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

Volunteers Sunday, June 6th

Sunday Assistants:	Jerry Nelson and Dorothy Morrison
Greeters:	Ashford Kettler and Brooke Boone
Sanctuary Preparer:	Harriett Felis
Usher Captain:	Don Carlisle
Nursery Volunteers:	John and Julie Otts
Wee Worship Leaders:	Sally and Brent Ericson
Office Volunteer:	Nancy Bentley
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Charlotte Crockett, 478-1003/591-7902 Dibber Lutz, 473-7582/433-5756

Visitor bags are located on the front pew each Sunday mornings. Please take one to share with a neighbor, someone new to the community, and/or with a person with whom you work. Help us in sharing the good news about Jesus Christ and the joyful disciples and ministry of this church!

Music and Fine Arts

Upcoming Choir Practices

- **Sanctuary Choir** Wed., June 2 7:00 p.m.
- **Sanctuary Choir** Wed., June 9 7:00 p.m.

Christian Education

Attention to All Rising 2nd - 6th Grade Children and Parents!

Registration remains open for "The Launch" at Camp Blue Lake in Andalusia, AL. This is a new summer camp opportunity being offered by the Presbytery of South Alabama. Camp begins Sunday afternoon, June 27 and concludes Thursday, July 1. Campers will participate in Bible study, fellowship, recreation and good, old-fashioned fun. Registration forms are available in the church office. Registration postmarked by June 1 is \$75; by June 16 the cost is \$125. Contact Kathryn Threadgill or Ryan Jensen for more information.

Things to Know

About Upcoming Vacation Bible School

- Vacation Bible School Registration will be capped at 60 participants.
- Registrations must be received by Friday, May 28th, to guarantee T-shirt size preference.
- After May 28th, we will continue to accept registrations until the maximum is reached.
- Set-up will take place on Sunday, June 6th following Worship. Take-down will take place on Friday, June 11th at 1:00 p.m.
- *Materials Still Needed*
Marketplace: 1 bottle olive oil, small hand towels (5), paint smocks or old shirts (15), tarps (2)
Games: toilet paper (12 rolls), 1 box spaghetti, ropes or lassos (5), hula hoops of varying sizes (10), stuffed animals of various sizes (15), kiddie pool (1), 1 container Vaseline, water buckets (3), large car wash sponges (5), floatable balls (5), bur-lap sacks (5).

Please bring by the church office with your name on any item which needs to be returned.

Congregational Life

Congratulations to Megan McGehee, daughter of Tom and Ceil McGehee, who graduated from Richmond University, London, on May 3, 2010.

Christian sympathy is extended to the friends and family of **Joel Danley** who died on Monday, May 24th. Joel was the husband of Fran Danley. A memorial service was held at GSPC at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 27th, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Duke Walker Awarded Order of the British Empire by Prince Andrew, Duke of York



May 6, 2010: MANAMA, Bahrain – U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Samuel “Duke” Walker, Commodore, CTG 55.6 was invested as an Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his distinctive service to and in recognition of his work with the British Royal Navy in Iraq. His Majesty Duke of York, Prince Andrew, who is currently on a regional tour, presented the award personally.

Walker worked as Executive Officer of the Coalition Naval Advisory Training Team, led by the British Royal Navy, for two years from 2004 – 2006, embedded with the Iraqi Navy in the Umm Qasr region of Iraq. According to Walker, the experience of training and rebuilding the Iraqi Navy under the Royal Navy command was a rewarding experience. He found it is gratifying to observe the growth that has taken place in the Iraqi Navy. “I find it difficult to articulate adequately how humbled I am to be singled out in this way. Working with my British and Iraqi counterparts will always be one of the most significant and moving experiences of my military career. This award will be a symbol of that.”

Walker’s dedicated service enabled him to hold the dignity and rank of an honorary member of the Member of the Order of the British Empire. “This award is very rare,” said Commodore Tim Lowe, Royal Navy United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander. “The Queen approves awards only twice a year, and the list is usually very small.”

“This award represents the work of the coalition forces and our Iraqi counterparts. It floods back the memories of fallen service members that we lost during my tenure,” said Walker. “The award truly honors them.”

Walker returned to the Middle East region in 2009 and currently serves as Commodore CTG-55.6 as a principal force provider under Expeditionary Strike Group 5, in Command of all U.S. Coast Guard Forces in the region. - from an article by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brianna K. Dandridge (U.S. Navy)

GSPC to Enter Red Cross Gumbo Competition

The award-winning GSPC gumbo team is forming again for this year’s event, scheduled for Saturday, June 5 in Bienville Square. The competition takes place from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m., but our cooks will arrive early in the morning to begin the 10-gallon adventure. Interested in joining the team? Contact Rev. Ryan Jensen at 434-9329. A limited number of free tickets will also be available to those who would like to attend the event. Come to support our team, the Red Cross and to enjoy some of the best gumbo this side of Louisiana!

Student Awards in Our Church Family

The annual UMS-Wright Senior Award Assembly was held April 29th. Winners included **Barrett McGowin**, *Theater Guild Award*, and **Lynn Tamblin**, *Salutatorian, Anatomy and Physiology and Frances Barnes Hicks Awards*.

The annual UMS-Wright Underclassmen Awards Assembly was held May 6th. Sophomore winners included **Travis Goodloe**, *AP European History Award* and *Vanessa Dantzer Chunn Award*. Junior winners included **Kate Gardner**, *Photography Award*; **Alex Van Haneghan**, *Washington and Lee University Book Award* and *AP Biology Award*; and **Emily Van Haneghan**, *Amelia Moore Edgar Award*.

Sydney Walker at the Semmes Heritage Festival

Sydney, looking fabulous as usual, in her brand-new Trail Maid dress at the Semmes Heritage Festival on May 22nd.



GSPC NEWS

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Children's Ministries

by Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Thank You:** Thank you so much to everyone for a beautiful and memorable Farewell Reception. It meant so much to me to see everyone and be able to say Good-Bye. I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful picture of Government Street Church. My family will cherish it forever, and no matter where God takes us a little piece of all of you will always be with us. Thank you again for allowing me to serve the families of GSPC; I have truly been blessed by everyone.
- **Sunday School:** The children will be combined for Summer Sunday School. Mrs. Charlotte will lead them in a video series this summer from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.
- **Choir:** The Children's and Cherub Choirs are on summer break. Thank you to Mrs. Wanda and Mr. Terry for all of their hard work this year singing with the children.
- **Vacation Bible School:** EGYPT happens on June 7-11. Register Today! Contact Laura Jensen at lauramasseyjensen@gmail.com with any questions.
- Family Devotional: *Scripture:* Acts 2:38; *Prayer:* A Pentecost Prayer; *Song:* I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

New Address for Murray Family:

111 Chaps Lane, Fredericksburg, Virginia 24401

Until We Meet Again: As you know this past Sunday was my last Sunday here at GSPC. I celebrated my time with the children and we had a party full of cookies, icing, and balloons. I was able to play with them and enjoy my last time with them. I was also able to answer all of their questions, such as will you fly or drive to VA? Will it be hot or cold? What does your new house look like and what is your new address? Will Ella & August go with you? What church will you go to and will you work with the children and teach them our songs there? And one child asked when will you be back? I did my best to answer all of their questions and more. It meant so much to me that they cared about me and wanted to know all the details of my new life in VA.

I want to thank everyone for all of their kind words to me and my family. Thank you for all of my beautiful gifts and flowers. My heart was filled with joy as I left on Sunday with my arms full of the gifts and my spirit full of blessings. Thank you to everyone at GSPC for blessing me and giving me so much. Each of you is in my thoughts and prayers and I will miss you all. *Love, Amanda*