

ISSUE # 1

January 13, 2010

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

Bible Study

Dr. George R. Sinclair
Pastor

The fountain on Jackson Street was frozen when I arrived. Inside was a freshly brewed pot of Shelia's coffee. By five after 8 (ok, maybe 10 after), six women had gathered; we sang the Doxology; one read Luke 3: 18-22, and we were off and running:

"Who baptized Jesus?"

"John?"

"Well, what does the text say?"

"It doesn't say."

"That's right. Where was John?"

"In prison . . . so he couldn't have baptized Jesus?"

"That's right. So, why does Luke tell the story differently? Let's look at Mark."

"Mark says John baptized Jesus."

"Ok, so Mark says John baptized Jesus. Luke says John was in prison. That's probably Luke's way of down-playing John, who by Luke's day had his own following. Luke wanted his readers to be clear that Jesus was more important than John even though Jesus submitted to John's baptism."

"So, why was Jesus baptized? Don't we believe or don't some people believe—you know the Baptists—don't they believe you have to be born again before you're baptized? If that's so, why was Jesus baptized? I thought Jesus was sinless?"

"What does the text say?"

"It says 'all the people were baptized' and then Jesus 'was baptized.' It sounds like Jesus was 'with' everybody else?"

"So, what does that mean?"

"That Jesus was like us?"

"Did John invent baptism? Where did baptism come from?"

"The Jews practiced ritual washing, a way of distinguishing themselves ethnically. These ritual baths also reminded them to be morally pure. John upped the ante."

"Yeah, not just a little—you had to be dunked!"

"What does Jesus learn in his baptism?"

"That he's the Son of God?"

"Did he know that before or was his baptism some kind of realization?"

"What does the text say?"



at GSPC. Attendance is roughly one-fourth of worship attendance or about ten adults per group. Kathryn Threadgill will add a seventh for younger women in the next few weeks. Ryan recently added another that meets in the home of Rudy Nordmann on Tuesdays at 7 a.m.

In addition to my Monday women's group, I lead a study for younger men on Wednesdays at 7 a.m. and one on Fridays for men 40-50ish, which also begins with breakfast at 7. For contact information about the Men's Disciple group, which meets Wednesday evenings, see Bo Perry; and for the Women's Disciple group, which meets Tuesday mornings, see Mary Elizabeth Perry (471-5727).

Inside you will find a description of Sunday morning studies. Between Sunday and weekday studies, there are twelve, soon to be thirteen, groups to choose from. What a great New Year's Resolution. Find a study and stick with it. Make good on that promise you've been waiting to keep.

Briefly . . .

This year our newsletter will be published *twice monthly*. Postal versions will be mailed on the second and fourth Wednesdays. E-versions remain available (just let the office know your preferred email) or you can read the publication on-line at gspcmobile.org. Deadline for submission is the Thursday before publication.

On Sunday, January 24, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting following a 12 noon luncheon. Younger children are encouraged to eat with their families following worship. They may be excused during the meeting. Childcare will be provided. We will hear annual reports, vote on pastoral terms of call, and elect three officers to fill unexpired terms. We will adjourn by 1:15.

The Church Office will be closed to honor the ML King Jr. Holiday on the 18th. Coffee Club and Meals on Wheels resume Tuesday. Elders and Deacons are reminded of their meeting which begins with supper at 5:30 that evening.

In addition to Urban Ministries' two weekly Coffee Club Bible studies, six adult Bible studies are held every week

God's Peace,
George

Worship

Lectionary Readings for January 17:

Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Volunteers this Sunday, January 17

Greeters: Ben Dukes and
Holly Carrigan
Sunday Assistants: Jarrett Callaway and
Dorothy Morrison
Sanctuary Preparer: Julia Wells
Nursery Volunteers: Liz and Guy Helmsing
Wee Worship Leaders: Jade and Eddie Bishop
Office Volunteer: Dot White
Prayer Chain Contacts: Charlotte Crockett,
478-1003/591-7902
Dibber Lutz,
473-7582/433-5756

Lectionary Readings for January 24:

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Volunteers next Sunday, January 24

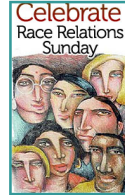
Usher Captain: Travis Goodloe
Greeters: Kasee Sparks and
Tim Heisterhagen,
Gail and Bobby Headrick
Sunday Assistants: Hal Jones and Donna Misra
Sanctuary Preparers: Bligh Jones and
Trisha Hawkins
Nursery Volunteer: Nicole Moss
Wee Worship Leaders: Jim and Shelley Hood
Office Volunteer: Dot White
Prayer Chain Contacts: Charlotte Crockett,
478-1003/591-7902
Dibber Lutz,
473-7582/433-5756

The Lord's Supper will be observed this Sunday, January 17th

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal.

Book of Order 4-2.4011

Sunday, January 17th, is designated as Race Relations Sunday



"In faithful witness to the love of Christ, the church is committed to confronting the ideology of racism and racial oppression, working to overcome racism with prayer, discernment and worship-based action. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, and Race Relations Sunday, January 17, provide opportunities to celebrate the diversity of God's family." - PC(USA)

The week of January 18-25th is dedicated as the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. Articles and video about the legacies of Black Presbyterians and Dr. King, and the history of Presbyterian involvement in the Civil Rights movement are available online at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/racialjusticemlresources.htm>

GSPC's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th

GSPC's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after Worship on Sunday, January 24th, following a family luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Members will hear annual reports, approve terms of call for GSPC's pastors, and elect three officers to fill unexpired terms. A nursery will be provided during the meeting. Lunch cost is \$5 per person, no more than \$15 per family.

Urban Ministries

Help Still Needed: Person with a love of urban ministry, access to a truck or van, a strong back, and a few hours of free time a week. The Urban Ministry Committee is looking for a driver to make pick-ups at the Bay Area Food Bank for use at Coffee Club. The food picked up will feed around 150-200 people breakfast five times a week and is a critical part of community mission at GSPC. Please contact Scott Spence at 434-9328 if you have questions or are interested. Thanks!

Music and Fine Arts

Upcoming Choir Practice Schedules

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| • Cherub Choir | Sun., Jan. 17 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • Children's Choir | Sun., Jan. 17 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • GMBACS | Tues., Jan. 19 | 7-9:30 p.m. |
| • Sacred Tones | Wed., Jan. 20 | 6:00 p.m. |
| • Sanctuary Choir | Wed., Jan. 20 | 7:30 p.m. |
| • Cherub Choir | Sun., Jan. 24 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • Children's Choir | Sun., Jan. 24 | 9:30 a.m. |
| • GMBACS | Tues., Jan. 26 | 7-9:30 p.m. |
| • Sacred Tones | Wed., Jan. 27 | 6:00 p.m. |
| • Sanctuary Choir | Wed., Jan. 27 | 7:30 p.m. |

Christian Education

Youth This Week

Youth & Parents Luncheon

Sunday, January 17th
Noon – 2:00 p.m.

PYC families will meet for fellowship immediately in Fellowship Hall. We will discuss the calendar, debrief all about how things are going, and receive important information. *Please RSVP to Rev. Kathryn Threadgill!*

Youth Looking Ahead

PYC Fellowship - Digital Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, January 24th
5:30-7:00 p.m. at GSPC

Youth: please bring your digital cameras for this event. Dinner will be provided by Shawn Walker.

PYC – Exploring the Word

Sunday, January 31st
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Come explore what we do with the light of Christ that has come into the world.

Dinner will be provided by Nicole Moss.

PYC Dinner Sign-up Reminders

Jan. 24 th	Shawn Walker
Jan. 31 st	Nicole Moss
Feb. 28 th	Sally Ericson
March 14 th	The Irvines
March 21 st	The Morrisettes and Wyatts
April 11 th	Mary Harris
April 18 th	Abbie Baxter

World Mission

Mission Market Report

The Christmas Mission Market keeps growing because of your generous spirit. This year's gifts included: a week's serving of grits to two people for a year; 16 weeks of Meals on Wheels; a sheep; 19 flocks of chickens; 17 honeybee hives; 47 trees; and 780 gallons of clean water to help with Elizabeth and Dan Turk's mission in Madagascar. You also supplied books/supplies for 13 students and medicine for 50 children a week for 37 weeks to help Frank and Nancy Dimmock's mission in Lesotho. Family Promise was aided with diaper, detergent and the re-establishment of 5 families. Dental or Doctor check-ups and flu shots were made available to 43 people by Victory Health Partners. Living Waters for the World received

equipment for 36 filtration plants and 34 packets of PVC pipe. 20 bricks, paint for 2 rooms and a new door helped build a new life for a Habitat for Humanity family.

All were made possible by your generous gifts. Thank you from all the people that your gifts benefited: **a total of \$7,681.00 was received this year!**

Dorothy Morrison, World Missions Committee

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle 5 will meet on Thursday, Jan 21st, at 6:30 p.m., at Anita Winn's home.

Congregational Life

Church Office Holiday Hours — the church office will be closed Monday, January 18th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

About this Newsletter

GSPC's Newsletter is published on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. There are two Newsletter versions: (1) a print newsletter which is typically mailed out no later than Thursday of the publication week and (2) an eNews version, which currently is an email with an attached PDF version of the Newsletter. This version is typically emailed before any of the printed and mailed newsletters are delivered, a plus for many. Anyone with a computer can read any PDF using Adobe's free Acrobat Reader, which is available at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/>. This auto-installs quickly and is very easy to use.

eNews subscribers also occasionally receive short 'Breaking News' emails containing important news of needs, opportunities, cancellations and/or changes of times, venues, etc.

To subscribe to the eNews version instead of the print version OR to both the print and eNews version, please contact the Church Office at 432-1749.

Submission Deadline

Please submit news items by the end of the day on the Thursday preceding an upcoming publication week. You may leave submissions in the Communications Box in the Workroom, or email them to: debbie@gspcmobile.org.

Contact the Editor regarding:

News of upcoming events, meetings, programs, etc.
Questions, Suggestions and Feedback

Editor

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GSPC NEWS

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Mobile, Alabama 36602

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Children's Ministries

by Amanda Murray, Director of Children's Ministries

- **Happy New Year!** I have two important resolutions for you to add to your list this year. Remember your puzzle piece name from Rally Day? It is time to pull it out, put it on the refrigerator, and pray. As a part of your daily devotional time, take time to pray for the person named on your piece. If you have not contacted the person yet, make a resolution to do so now. Even if it is just a card in the mail, that will make a difference. Everyone wants to be thought of, and you never know what someone needs at any time - it may just be your prayers, your thoughts, and your love. The second resolution is to practice daily devotional time with your family using the Family Devotional book you received Christmas 2008, *Making Time for God*. I encourage you to take time this New Year to read from this with your families every day. If this book is too much for your young children, please find one that works for you. If you need any suggestions, please let me know. I will be calling on families this year to write down some thoughts about the daily devotions each day with their families. I would like to share the thoughts in the newsletter for other families to read and be inspired to do a devotional with their families.
- **Mission Project Update:** The children have raised since October over \$300.00 for the Dimmock's Mission in Africa. The children are raising money and awareness for the early education program being developed by Frank Dimmock in Africa. The children will continue to raise the money until May. Please, support them in their mission.
- **Sunday School continues this Sunday.** All second graders need to attend Sunday School in the middle Sunday School room with Caroline Etherton and Jennifer Jameson.
- **Children's and Cherub's Choir practice continues this Sunday.**
- **CLUB 345** (a fellowship group for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) will meet Sunday, January 24th for games and more! We are inviting all second graders to join the fun that day!
- **Mark Your Calendars: Vacation Bible School is set for June 7-11**
- **Happy Birthday:** Elizabeth Helmsing 8, Will & Patrick McGowin 11, Sophie Bain 6, David Ericson 10, Mac Boone 2, Houston Jones 5, Mary Brown 6, and Conrad Otts 1.
- **Family Devotional: January:** *Scripture:* Ephesians 4:5-6; *Prayer:* A Prayer for Promises: Dear God, Forgive us and help us trust in your promises. Help us keep the promises we make to ourselves and others. Amen. ; *Song:* I am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

Making Time For God: Our GSPC family devotional book. Question of the week related to this week's devotional in the book:

Do you ever wonder if God's promises are true?