

ISSUE # 5

March 10, 2010

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We Are Called by the Spirit

Rev. Ryan Jensen

Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Discipleship

New Year's Day and Mardi Gras season are safely in the rearview mirror. With regard to the liturgical season, the fourth Sunday in Lent is already upon us and the month of April is less than three weeks away. There are no two ways about it: time in 2010 is swiftly moving along! So what has Government Street Presbyterian Church been doing in the midst of it all? Take a look:

In the month of January, officers were installed, the regular Sunday school schedule returned, Thursday Forums resumed, the congregation participated in its annual meeting, the youth participated in a digital scavenger hunt, and eight Bible study groups continued to meet in the morning, afternoon, and evening both at the church and in West Mobile.

February brought about the "Souper Bowl of Caring" offering, the Ash Wednesday service, and a performance by The Greater Mobile Bay Area Choral Society: *All the Songs to Fit in the Synagogue*. Several of our youth participated in a service project with people living in "Alabama Village," and the *Seven Habits of Disciples* sermon series and church-wide study began. Attendance in all classes has increased as GSPC joins in discerning what it means to worship God and follow Jesus Christ. The discernment and reflection continued at Baytreat on February 27 when Deacons and Elders met to discuss the programs, mission and future of the church... more on the meeting will be published in the time ahead. February concluded in a fantastic way with four new members joining the church: Catherine Rivers, Brooke Boone and Ed and Nancy Boone.

The month of March includes several large initiatives as well. The youth hosted a fun-filled "Fiesta Fund-raiser Luncheon" from which the proceeds will be used to fund youth trips and conferences this summer. The *Sacred Spaces* women's retreat will take place at Baytreat this weekend and record numbers are registered for that event. Thursday forums and Thursday prayer and communion services continue as the congregation prepares for Holy Week, which begins on March 28.

Helping to promote our Lenten programs to the outside community, Debbie Bruker, our Director of Communications, is preparing to send a large, colorful and well designed post card out this week to the surrounding zip codes. This mailing is the second in a three part

Lenten series designed to reach those who are looking for a community of faith. The theme of the series of mailings — *Meet The One with The Plan* — is one of inviting people to move from the pressures and loneliness of the secular world into the world of God's peace, love, and community.

...but the **COST** can be **HIGH**.

LENTEN...
A time of prayer, preparation, repentance, reflection, and fasting.
A time to consider the power of Christ's redeeming love.
A time to study and discern God's will.

Meet The One with The Plan

Join us at 11:00 a.m. on **Lenten Sunday** March 21 as we explore the **Seven Habits of Disciples**.

Prayer: **Worship** Bible Study: **Service** Fellowship: **Testing** Testimony

Join us for **Holy Week** from March 28 - April 4

It is **GOOD** to be **KING...**

of your household, your office,
your club, your world, etc., etc.,



Combined with the Lenten study and series and the beginning of our confirmation program for youth, I believe that these mailings have led to both the increase in worship attendance as well as an increase in those who are visiting our church. Great news all the way around!

All of this is to say that there is a lot going on at Government Street Presbyterian Church! Furthermore, this activity is taking place in the form of meaningful worship and service in which members are joyfully responding to God and participating in the discipleship of Christ. With much more to come in the remaining year ahead, it is time to ask questions of ourselves and others: What are we doing to invite others into the goodness of Christ's love? How are we responding to God's calling to study, worship, prayer and service? What does this church mean to us and how can we share this message with others?

Easter is only weeks away. Worship will take place both during a 6 a.m. sunrise service in Cathedral Square and during the regular 11:00 Worship service in the sanctuary. Opportunities abound to further commit ourselves and others to the good news and glory of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. What will the coming weeks and months bring as we respond faithfully to the mission statement of our church?

Worship

Lectionary Readings for March 14:

Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Volunteers this Sunday, March 14

Sunday Assistants: Laura Jensen and
Charlotte Crockett
Sanctuary Preparers: Dot White and
Nancy Bentley
Usher Captain: Ralph Lawrence
Nursery Volunteers: Shalon and Sean Sinclair
Wee Worship Leaders: Dusty and Teresa Neff
Office Volunteer: Dot White
Prayer Chain Contacts: Charlotte Crockett,
478-1003/591-7902
Dibber Lutz,
473-7582/433-5756

Lectionary Readings for March 21:

Isa. 43:16-921; Ps. 126; Phil. 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Volunteers Sunday, March 21

Sunday Assistants: Ashford Kettler and
Donna Misra
Sanctuary Preparers: Bligh Jones and
Trisha Hawkins
Nursery Volunteer: Sara Bryan
Wee Worship Leader: Amanda Roberds
Office Volunteer:
Prayer Chain Contacts: Charlotte Crockett,
478-1003/591-7902
Dibber Lutz,
473-7582/433-5756

Thursday Lenten Communion Services

*The Lord's Supper will be observed during Thursday Lenten Communion Services held in the Sanctuary from 11:30 a.m. — Noon on the following upcoming Lenten Thursdays: March 18, March 25 and April 1. The March 18 and March 25 services end as the Noon Thursday Lunch Forums begin. The April 1st Maundy Thursday service will be followed at 12:15 p.m. by a **Soup and Bread Luncheon** in Fellowship Hall.*

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

World Mission

An inspiring true story from our Lesotho, Africa, missionary Nancy Dimmock has been published as the March 4th selection in the PC(USA) *2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study*. It concerns pressing needs at the Maseru, Lesotho, orphan care center and something which Nancy deems "...God's perfect provision and perfect timing."

The story is available for reading online at:
<http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/Mar/04.htm>

Presbyterian Women

PW Presbytery Spring Gathering

The PW Presbytery Spring Gathering will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Andalusia on Thursday, March 18. The gathering will begin at 9 a.m. and continue through early afternoon. For those who plan to attend, the PW Moderator for Andalusia is Judy St. John. Another contact person is Lucy Brady.

First Presbyterian is located at 223 S. Three Notch St. in Andalusia and is a two hour drive from Mobile. The phone number is (334)222-5352. A car-pool is forming. If you'd like a ride, please call the GSPC church office at 432-1749.

Music and Fine Arts

Upcoming Choir Practices

- **Cherub Choir** Sun., Mar. 14 9:30 a.m.
- **Children's Choir** Sun., Mar. 14 9:30 a.m.
- **GMBACS** Tues., Mar. 16 7-9:00 p.m.
- **Sacred Tones** Wed., Mar. 17 6:00 p.m.
- **Sanctuary Choir** Wed., Mar. 17 7:30 p.m.
- **Cherub Choir** Sun., Mar. 21 9:30 a.m.
- **Children's Choir** Sun., Mar. 21 9:30 a.m.
- **GMBACS** Tues., Mar. 23 7-9:00 p.m.
- **Sacred Tones** Wed., Mar. 24 6:00 p.m.
- **Sanctuary Choir** Wed., Mar. 24 7:30 p.m.

A Don't-Miss Event

The Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir from Ft. Worth, Texas will be playing a concert at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception on Sunday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. This world-reknowned 30-person bell choir is famous for performing without a conductor, without a table or gloves, and completely from memory.

Urban Ministries

IHN is Coming!

Our next opportunity to host IHN families is scheduled from Sunday, April 18th to Sunday, April 25th. GSPC is in need of volunteers to prepare and serve meals for our guests, Evening Hosts to help them feel welcome at the church, and Overnight Hosts to spend the night. We also have need for setting up and breaking down the IHN rooms, doing laundry, and preparing breakfast. Please contact Jay Roberds (IHN Coordinator) or fill out the calendar in the foyer if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you. — Scott

Christian Education

“The Launch” Kids Camp at Blue Lake

June 27th to July 1st

The Presbytery of South Alabama is offering a fully-staffed, 5-day camp for 1st through 5th graders at Camp Blue Lake in Andalusia, AL. The week will include daily Bible studies, large and small group games, skits, crafts, great food, swimming, canoeing, paddle boats, archery and much more. The Presbytery is now accepting registrations for both campers and counselors (high school and up). Call the Presbytery office at 251-626-1915 for more information.

Congregational Life

2010 Winter Lunch Forums

GSPC’s 2010 Winter Lunch Forums take place on scheduled Thursdays between Noon and 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Lunch is served from 12-12:30 p.m. Admission is free. Lunch is \$5. No reservation required, free parking available in GSPC’s lot.



Bill Sission is Featured Speaker at Thursday, March 18th Winter Forum.

William B. Sission, Executive Director of the Mobile Airport Authority, will be the featured speaker at GSPC’s March 18th Thursday Lunch Forum. He is

responsible for the Mobile Regional Airport at Bates Field and the Brookley Industrial Complex near Downtown Mobile. His primary responsibilities include developing commercial air service for the region as well as seeking industrial prospects. Before joining the Airport Authority, Mr. Sission served as Vice President of Economic Development at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and as Vice

President of Business Development at the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Drexel Gilbert is Featured Speaker at Thursday, March 25th Winter Forum, the Series Finale

Well known television broadcaster, communications consultant and motivational speaker Drexel Gilbert will be the featured speaker at GSPC’s March 25th Thursday Lunch Forum. Now owner and principal consultant of her own company, Drexel has spent most of her adult life in the public eye — entering the world of television news broadcasting while still a teenaged college student and spending the next 25-plus years interacting with people from all walks of life as a reporter, anchor, newsroom manager and public speaker. This March 25th Forum will be the final Forum of the 2010 Winter series.



Our Newest Members

On Sunday, February 28th, GSPC welcomed four new members: Ed and Nancy Boone, parents of current member Damon Boone, and their daughter Brooke Boone; and Catherine Rivers, whose three daughters — Mary Lyman, Grace and Amelia — are attending GSPC’s Sunday School classes. All joined by transfer of church letter.



Ed Boone



Nancy Boone



Brooke Boone



Catherine Rivers

Congratulations to Gil and Martha Campbell, now happy residents of snowy Montreat. They welcomed a new grandson, Elliot Davis Campbell, on February 27. Elliot measured 21 inches and weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. Using Skype, Elliot’s parents, Brian and Gina, were able to send pictures to Gil and Martha from Atlanta when Elliot was less than 2 hours old. They look forward to introducing their new grandson to Montreat.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families and friends of the following:

Son-in-Law of Elsie Austin

David Layman, born in Athens, TN, passed away on February 10, 2010 at the age of 69. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Susan Layman. Services were held on Saturday, February 13.

Mother of Brenda (Chandler) Ogburn

Eloise Finley died Monday, February 22, in a local health care facility. Mrs. Finley, a native of Winn, Alabama, lived in Mobile for more than 60 years. She was an accomplished artist and active in the Mobile art community. Mrs. Finley was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Bruce Crane Finley, Sr. She is survived by one sister, Minnie Beverly of Thomasville, Alabama and four children: Sandra Lammon (Mark) of Baton Rouge, LA, and Bruce Finley, Jr. (Jane), Brenda Ogburn (Chandler), and Russell Finley, all of Mobile; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Services were held on Thursday, February 25.

James B. Ezell, Sr., a lifelong resident of Mobile, and member of GSPC, died Monday, March 1, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth Welch Ezell

and his three children: James Bascom Ezell, Jr. (Pam) of Birmingham, AL, Katherine Ezell Bills (Conner) of Hattiesburg, MS and Ruth Welch Ezell of Niceville, FL. Services were held on March 4.

Former Spouse of Becky Baumhauer

John Daly Baumhauer, Jr., a native Mobilian, died Tuesday, March 2, at the age of 86. He is survived by his three children, John Daly Baumhauer, III (Debra), Virginia Baumhauer Nixon, (Clancy) and Jessie Baumhauer Hill (Moe), his 8 grandchildren, nieces, nephews, many cousins and friends. John D.'s business career spanned 60 years in the insurance and real estate industries. Services were held on Friday, March 5.

LeAnne Tamblyn's Father

Robert Lee Catrett died this past weekend. Services were held on Wednesday, March 10, in Bay Minette.

Dorothy Tanner Norman, a former GSPC member, died on Saturday, March 6, at the age of 82 in a south Florida nursing home. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, Mar. 10, at Old Spring Hill Cemetery.