



# The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church  
November, 2017



## *Pastor's Note*

Dear friends,

On the first Sunday of November, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, a time to remember those saints who came before us in the community of faith. We remember the well-known saints whose names we recall and whose stories we tell. We remember the anonymous saints, the unnamed women and men who quietly and faithfully lived out the gospel. We remember the saints of our own lives, those individuals who gave us a glimpse of God's love through their words and actions. And we remember the saints of our congregation, especially those who have died in the last year.

Remembering the saints who have gone before us helps us keep perspective on our time and place. We are in a time of fearfulness and anxiety in our country. We look around and see division and discord among nations, in our communities, and sometimes in our own families. When anxiety begins to rise, I find it helpful to recall that Christians have lived faithfully through fearful times before. In times of empire and oppression, war and disaster, our ancestors sought to live out their trust in God. Their example guides us as we discern how to live faithfully here and now. How do we love God and love our neighbor in our particular time and place?

Encouraged by the faithful who have gone before us, may we listen for God's call and follow with courage.

Grace and peace,  
Leanne

### **SVPC Welcomes New Members**

On Sunday, November 12, SVPC will welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about joining SVPC, please contact Pastor Leanne Pearce Reed at [leanne.svpc@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.svpc@gmail.com).

### **Blessing of the Animals Sunday, November 5 at 2pm**

Shades Valley welcomes you to bring your pet (on a leash or in a carrier, please!) for a Blessing of the Animals.





You're invited to attend  
a piano recital presented by  
SVPC organist, Ty Robert

Thornton, on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.  
The program includes works by Francis  
Poulenc, Ludwig van Beethoven, William  
Sterndale Bennett, Claude Debussy,  
and Richard Cumming. The concert is  
free and open to the public, so please plan  
to attend and invite your family, friends  
and neighbors.

### SVPC On The Road Again!

In October, a trio of SVPC members toured the Berman Museum in Anniston, Alabama and ate supper at Top O' the River. We especially enjoyed the collections of unusual guns, American West bronze sculptures and "multi-use" weapons. Have you ever seen a tire gauge, screwdriver or gear shift that doubles as a gun?

We hope that you will join us in December for the intergenerational Christmas Luncheon at Bright Star Restaurant. It's also time to sign up to see "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Alabama Theatre (look for flyers and info.).

Please let Cindy Tarrant or Elaine Peavy know if there is somewhere you would like SVPC to visit in 2018.

### Workshop at SVPC on Aging

Upcoming one day workshop on *Facing Mortality* --as in *one's own!* Rev. Mary M. Porter from the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley will be leading this event on Friday, November 3 (9 AM - 4 PM) at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church. This workshop on "Sage-ing," introduces participants to a way of living life more consciously, joyfully, and compassionately. Sage-ing was developed by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and is the fruit of both his struggles with his own aging and his learning from the best of science, religion, psychology, philosophy, and the arts. (See his 1995 book, recently revised, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Revolutionary Approach to Growing Older*, and check out the website of the sponsoring organization, Sage-ing International: [www.sage-ing.org](http://www.sage-ing.org))

The fee for registration is \$80 and includes course materials. Lunch can be provided for an extra \$10, or brown-bagging is an option. A discount fee is available to those who have participated in a previous Sage-ing International event. To Register online go to: <http://www.sage-ing.org>. Questions? Contact Mary at: [2harps1dog@gmail.com](mailto:2harps1dog@gmail.com) or 205/994-5552.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 3—Ben Helton, Ben Acton
- Nov. 4—Earl Whatley
- Nov. 6—Bennie Fair, Katie Hampton
- Nov. 7—Jean Buttler
- Nov. 8—Joe Rives, Charlotte Crawford
- Nov. 11—Peg McGowan, Cliff Thompson
- Nov. 12—Bobby Pickett
- Nov. 15—Nancy Littauer, J.B. Marshall
- Nov. 18—Marshall Garrett
- Nov. 20—Evelyn Painter, Stewart Peavy
- Nov. 21—Claire Morgan
- Nov. 22—John Eagan, Gail Parrish, Lynn Casey
- Nov. 23—Leslie Miles
- Nov. 26—Julie Archibald
- Nov. 27—Sarah Thomas
- Nov. 28—Rick Rogers
- Nov. 30—Laura McDonald

### Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs

- Nov. 1: Dinner—Fish, Roasted Potatoes, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Worship Service
- Nov. 8: Dinner—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/gravy, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Small Groups (Book Club, Bingo, Knitting Group, Prayer Group)
- Nov. 15: Thanksgiving Dinner—Baked Turkey, Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Guest Speaker, Anne Wright from Firehouse Ministries.
- Nov. 22: **NO Dinner**—See you next week!
- Nov. 29: Dinner: Soup, Salad, Baked Potatoes, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Worship Service—The Chrismon Tree

### Welcome Youth Leader!

We welcome Braxton Arnold to the staff of SVPC as our youth leader! Braxton is the son of Brad and Mystie Arnold and grandson of Ed and Gail Parrish. He's in his 2nd year at UAB and lives downtown. Braxton started work on Sunday, Oct. 22 and we are so excited about this opportunity to work with him. We hope you will share this great news with your children and grandchildren so they can join the group and make plans with them!



Dear friends,

In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to say *thank you*. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we are becoming a more effective witness to the love of Jesus Christ in this community and the world. Your financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission. This year, your gifts have enabled us to:

- provide meaningful worship to nurture the people of God;
- offer learning opportunities, including Sunday School, Bible study and small groups, to help us grow in our faith;
- contribute to vital local missions, like Habitat for Humanity, Greater Birmingham Ministries and Firehouse Ministries;
- provide new *Glory to God hymnals to enrich our worship for years to come; and*
- contribute both supplies and financial support to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid those facing recent disasters.

These are just a few of the ministries and missions your gifts have helped support! Thank you for your commitment and generosity. Generous giving does not simply happen – it is the result of faith, trust, intentional choices, and a life of discipline.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about how we as a congregation are engaged in God's mission in the world. Each of us will be invited to reflect on how we will participate in the "future with hope" here at Shades Valley. I hope you'll join, especially on our Commitment Sunday on November 12.

In Christ,  
Anne Doty  
Chair, Stewardship Team

Rev. Reed opened the meeting with a devotional and a lesson from Gal. 5:22-25.

Joe Rives reported that SVPC served 65 men at the Firehouse Shelter last night (Saturday, October 8). He also reported that Bruce Ludwig attended and participated in the dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house in Pleasant Grove that members of SVPC worked on for many days.

Joe Rives also said that the Blue Jeans and Baskets Bash, a main fund raiser for the Firehouse Ministries, will be held on Friday, November 17 from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Haven, 2515 6th Avenue South. Tickets are \$50 each. See Mike Wade to purchase tickets.

SVPC prepared approximately 100 hygiene kits and sent them to PDA for individuals who suffered from the recent hurricanes.

Also, the fund-raising for Christmas bicycles for children at GBM has begun, and the goal is \$7,000 for 160 bikes.

Stegall Electric will install new LED strip lights in the hallway leading to the Small Dining Room and the Nursery.

Anne Doty from Stewardship reported that Stewardship Sunday will be November 12, 2017.

Rev. Reed said that the PneuMatrix Team will attend the next stated Session meeting to give a progress report and to have a mutual discussion about what direction to head next. Jennifer Riggs said that we need to be sure that we have accurately defined the organizational structure and culture of SVPC first.

(continued next column)

The handbell choir is preparing special music to perform with the Choir and organ for worship on October 22.

Laura McDonald said that Discipleship is reviewing material to recommend to the adult Sunday School classes to use during Advent.

Elaine Peavy said that they are planning an intergenerational luncheon at The Bright Star restaurant on Dec. 8.

Joe Rives asked about what kind of level of security we need, or should have, at the church. Rev. Reed asked Joe Rives, Mark Nelson, and Ray McIntosh to investigate it.

Ray McIntosh reported for Finance that we are still net ahead of budget, with expenses under budget but giving has not recovered from the slow down typical during the summer (see the financial summary elsewhere in this Response). We hope that giving (and attendance!) returns to normal level for the fourth quarter.

**Presbyterian Home for Children  
Thrift Store Donations at SVPC**  
The next collection date is Saturday, November 4.  
Drop off times are from 8 am to 12 noon.

Bring your usable discards and gently used clothing to the Presbyterian Home for Children's reception center in the rear parking lot, below the playground, of SVPC. Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle and to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

**Shades Valley Presbyterian Church Summary of Income and Expenses YTD Through Sept. 2017**

Income	September YTD 2017	Budget YTD 2017	September YTD 2016
<b>General Offerings</b>			
General Offerings	300,489	296,441	307,314
Interest Revenue	414	56	102
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	862	194
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>300,903</b>	<b>297,360</b>	<b>307,611</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	174,475	180,245	210,985
Operating Expenses	117,127	117,994	107,141
Build, Bond, & Go Beyond	9,963	27,053	9,934
Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm.	298	75	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>301,863</b>	<b>325,366</b>	<b>328,060</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>(960)</b>	<b>(28,006)</b>	<b>(20,449)</b>

**NOTE:** The Session approved a modest deficit budget at the Session meeting on 3/19/2017 and will work to balance it by the end of the year. This is the first month we have gone negative for the year to date results. Even with all of the extra building and grounds expenses this year, the total expenses are still within budget. However, giving has not yet recovered from the usual slowdown from the summer months. We hope that giving (and attendance!) will get back to normal for the rest of the year.



# LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Alabama Theatre has announced its 2017 Christmas Holiday Film Series. Advance tickets to see classic holiday movies are available online and tickets are going fast. On Monday, December 18, 2017 there will be a church-wide outing to see the 2 p.m. matinee showing of "It's a Wonderful Life".

Your payment is your RSVP. **We need your RSVP/payment no later than Wednesday, November 1.** Make your check (\$9.25 per ticket) payable to SVPC with a notation "Holiday Movie" and give them to Lana in the church office. An envelope will be available for drop off. We'll start distributing tickets on Wednesday, December 6.

Tickets are general admission and the theatre doors will open 90 minutes before show time, so we will leave the church parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Please let us know if you would consider driving or would need transportation.

## Bicycles for Greater Birmingham Ministries

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will be accepting donations to purchase boys' and girls' bicycles to provide to GBM. They will hand these out with Christmas items provided to local families in need. During this annual event for SVPC, we were able to purchase and assemble 103 bikes last year and deliver them downtown. Your donations will start this project and be accepted until Sunday, November 19. Please make checks payable to SVPC and note "bikes" in the memo line of your check. Checks can be dropped off in the Sunday offering or mailed to the church office. We'll need volunteers to help in the assembly and delivery at a date to be determined after Thanksgiving. If any questions, please call the church office 871-7309 or check with Mike Wade.



## CANDY!

As Halloween comes around and we all think of candy, if you have any individually wrapped candies left over or would like to pick up some extra packs, we will take that donation and give to GBM when the bikes are delivered. A box will be available for drop off in the church office.

**Intergenerational Christmas Luncheon  
at Bright Star Restaurant  
on Friday, December 8 at 11 a.m.  
Please RSVP by December 4th  
by calling the church office or  
sign up outside of the Fellowship Hall.  
Let us know if you would consider driving  
or would need transportation.**

## From Our Mailbox



Thank you for joining others who share the vision of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—reaching those near and far with the hope of Christ following natural disasters with your Gift of the Heart kits. We encourage you to pray for these neighbors, that the enduring hope of Christ will be evident to them. Your congregation's gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing also supports numerous disaster responses and other compassionate ministries around the world.

*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

## Prison Ministry Update

Thank you to all who contributed funds so that we could purchase items for the prison ministry. We were able to purchase 216 bars of soap; 228 bottles of shampoo; 216 tubs of toothpaste and 216 containers of deodorant. These items will be greatly appreciated.



## JOIN US FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING!

Below you will see a listing of the books we're planning to use for our upcoming meetings. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the church library following dinner. If any further information is needed, please call the church office or Nancy Watkins.

Nov. - *The Mad Woman Upstairs*, Catherine Lowell

December - no meeting

January - *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Stroudt

February & March - Lent (no meetings)

April - *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman

May - *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins

## Reflections on Simon Ntumba's SVPC message

Simon Ntumba, an elder in his church and operator of the printing press and internet café in Kananga joined Christi and Jeff Boyd last Wed. night to talk about their work in Congo

Many of us were puzzled by Simon Ntumba's talk. After meeting with our Congolese folks and partnership team members yesterday I think I understand a little more and perhaps I can explain a little:

Simon spoke on 3 points. The first concerned the need for reconciliation within his denomination, CPC –the Presbyterian Community of Congo. For some time there has been dissention among the churches concerning matters regarding term limits for officials and frequency of meetings of their general assembly, etc.: Nothing really theological but of great concern to many. Some churches considered leaving the denomination. Simon was one of about 8 lay people who have worked with both sides trying to bring about reconciliation. Although he is still frustrated he see's hope for reconciliation in the near-future.

His second topic was concerning the recent conflict in the Kasai region and the need there for reconciliation. In the past this region of Congo has remained calm and pretty safe from violence. However last year they suffered a period of extreme violence initiated by a dispute concerning a local chief and the Congolese military. The chief, seeking better living conditions for his community confronted government officials and encouraged youth to confront the military and ultimately many lives were lost. Due to the fighting there are lingering hunger issues and need for trauma counseling for those experiencing the conflict. The situation is now calm and everyday life is continuing. Ntumba was able to reflect on the obvious respect of both sides, military and militias, for the Presbyterian Church. During the conflicts none of the church's property was damaged, our mission workers and church members were protected.

Finally Ntumba talked about the printing press that he operates in Kananga. This press was first opened by Lucy Sheppard in 1903 to provide printing capabilities for the churches. It has continued as a mission of the church. Ntumba wants to be able to print more Christian literature – i.e. youth materials, Bible stories, etc in order to train the youth early in the Christian life before they are recruited by more violent factions.

I hope these simple explanations help interpret what Simon Ntumba was saying. Thank you all who were present for our program. The Boyds and Ntumba were very appreciative of your attention. Please continue to pray for our mission workers and for the church in Congo.



Dear all,  
May be our God glorified. Today, 10/5/2017 is a big day in our work, it is a day that the first stone is planted for the beginning of Baolonga school construction. It was a joy for all of us, we were with Tshibashi presbytery staff, CPC staff, the representative of Ndesha state and students with their teachers. Thank you for all you are doing for our Church. We pray for you and need your prayer too.

*Pastor MBOYAMBA*



# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 2:00 p.m.—Blessing of the Animals Service</p>			<p>1 3:30 p.m.—Property Mtg. 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>2 4:00 p.m.—Living River Meeting</p>	<p>3 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. — Conference on Aging led by Rev. Mary Porter</p>	<p>4 8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. AWAAAY Conference, F. Hall</p>
<p>5 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 2:00 p.m.—Blessing of the Animals Service</p>	<p>6 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>7 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>9 5:00 p.m.—Firehouse Shelter Meeting, F. Hall</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Commitment Sunday New Member Sunday 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 9:30 a.m.—Personnel Mtg. 4:30 p.m.—Piano Concert by Ty Thornton</p>	<p>13 10:30 a.m.—Circle 2/3, 4 4:00 p.m.—Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.—Circle 7 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>14 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 12:00 p.m.—Circle 5 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Trant/Vance Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 5:00 p.m.—Trant/Vance Wedding</p>
<p>19 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>20 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>21 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 NO Dinner/Program/ Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Staff Holiday— Church Office Closed</p>	<p>24 Staff Holiday— Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p>	<p>27 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p>	<p>28 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>30</p>		

**Shades Valley Presbyterian Church**

2305 Montevallo Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223

Church Telephone: (205) 871-7309  
Church Web Page: [www.svpcusa.org](http://www.svpcusa.org)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**The deadline to submit articles for the DECEMBER issue of the Response is Thursday, November 16 at 9 a.m. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next newsletter or used in our weekly congregational emails.**

**OUR VISION**

*Shades Valley Presbyterian Church exists through God's love to  
**BUILD** a strong spiritual foundation,  
**BOND** together in Christian fellowship,  
**GO BEYOND** our walls to serve in Mission and bear Witness  
to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ..*

---

**THE SESSION**

Moderator, Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**Class of 2017:** Courtney Brown, Anne Doty, Jim Gray, Mark Nelson, Cindy Tarrant • Trustee: Ed Parrish

**Class of 2018:** Martha Ann Cooper, John Eagan, Jim Isaming, Elaine Peavy, Jennifer Riggs • Trustee: Lydia Wilfong

**Class of 2019:** Mary Wyatt Bowers, Laura McDonald, Ray McIntosh, Dot Riley, Joe Rives • Trustee: Augusta Forbes

Armed Services: Lt. J.G. Erin Bischoff, Lt. Col. J.B. Marshall  
Mission Co-Workers in Congo: Bob and Kristi Rice; John and Gwenda Fletcher

---