



# The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church  
September, 2017



## *Pastor's Note*

### **Fall Sermon Series: A Future with Hope Beginning Sunday, September 17**

Dear friends,

Sometimes hope seems far off. As individuals and as communities, we go through times when our situation seems bleak and it's hard to imagine a future that's any better. Where do we find hope in times of despair? That's what we'll explore in our fall sermon series, "A Future with Hope," which begins September 17.

The series title comes from a verse from the prophet Jeremiah:

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Jeremiah wrote these words to the people of Israel who had been taken into exile in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem. His message was for exiles who had lost everything: their loved ones, their homes, their beloved city, their place of worship. The underlying question in Jeremiah's letter is question that has been asked by so many people ever since:

How do we go on?

Jeremiah reminds the exiles, and us, that not everything has a quick fix. Sometimes patience is needed as we plant seeds for a future we can't quite imagine. I hope you'll join us in worship this fall as together we discover "A Future with Hope"

Grace and peace,  
Leanne

### **Joining SVPC**

Are you interested in becoming a member of SVPC or would just like more information? Stop by the parlor on **Sunday, September 10 at 10:30am** to meet Pastor Leanne Pearce Reed and learn more about joining SVPC.



### ***Glory to God Dedication***

Sunday, September 10  
8:30 am and 11:00 am

*"Sing to the Lord a new song!"*

**Join us for a joyful service of  
Scripture, song and prayer  
celebrating the dedication  
of our new hymnals.**

## Presbyterian Women

As we begin our new church year of women's circles, we would like to encourage each lady to please join us in our Bible study. We will be focusing on scripture from the book of Hebrews and look forward to the study and also good fellowship.

Please join us!

We have four circles that meet at different times to best suit your schedule.

Second Monday of the month, Sept.—May  
Circle 2,3—10:30 a.m.—Small Dining Room  
Circle 4—10:00 a.m.—Church Parlor  
Circle 7—6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall  
Second Tuesday  
Circle 5—12:00 noon—Small Dining Room

## Prison Ministry (Hedges & Highways) Donations Needed

It's time for our annual donations to be collected for the prison ministry project that SVPC has supported for many years. We will use all funds received to purchase personal hygiene items. Please make all donations no later than Saturday, September 30.



## JOIN US AS WE MEET IN SEPTEMBER!

Below you will see a listing of the books we are planning to use for our upcoming meetings.

September - *A Gentleman in Moscow*, Amor Towles

October - *Letters From Skye* by Jessica Brockmole

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2—Beth Woodward

Sept. 4—Lisa Lewis

Sept. 7—Judy Kelly

Sept. 8—Jeff Black

Sept. 9—Gail Ausbeck, Bill Barnes

Sept. 13—Anne Reiser

Sept. 14—Nathan Bowers

Sept. 15—Diane Newland

Sept. 16—Jim Isaminger, Priscilla Dunwoody,  
Katie Jane Quick

Sept. 17—Stephen Salzillo

Sept. 19—Connie Thompson

Sept. 20—Jack Riley, Pam Nelson

Sept. 21—Hunter Brown

Sept. 23—Brennan Quick

Sept. 25—Ashley Miller Ogles

Sept. 26—Robert Jamison, Jr.



## Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs

Wednesday, September 6—Dinner: Spaghetti and Meat Balls, Stewed Apples, Tossed Salad, Dessert.  
Program: Worship Service

Wednesday, September 13—Dinner: Italian Seasoned Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Dessert. Program: Small Groups

Wednesday, September 20—Dinner: Chopped Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Seasoned Vegetable, Salad, Dessert. Program: Bingo for Everyone!

Wednesday, September 27: Dinner: BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: Guest Speaker, Patrick Healy, Campus Minister for UKirk Birmingham

## Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store Donations at SVPC

The next collection date is Saturday, Sept. 2.  
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.

## Notes from the Congregational Meeting on August 6, 2017

On Sunday, August 6, 2017 the congregation voted to do the following:

- Thank and disband the Pulpit Nominating Committee.
- Elect a Standing Nominating Committee for 2017 whose task is to nominate a slate of Officers and a Trustee for the Class of 2020 and to nominate 4 members for the Standing Nominating Committee for 2018.

The members elected were:

Shirley Childs, Mark Nelson,  
Rick Rogers, and Kitty Whitehurst.

The Session had previously appointed Mary Wyatt Bowers to be the Chair of that committee.

## Notes from the Session Meeting on August 14, 2017

Rev. Reed opened the meeting with a devotional and a lesson from Luke 4:16-21 about Jesus declaring that he was the fulfillment of a prophecy in Isaiah following his reading from a scroll at the synagogue.

Elaine Peavy and Cindy Tarrant confirmed that Wednesday night dinners/programs will resume on August 23rd, and that there is an outing planned for August 29<sup>th</sup> to the Berman Museum and early dinner at Top O' the River in Anniston. Other activities are under consideration.

We had written reports from all Ministry Units, and the Session took the following actions:

- Received and accepted a request for a Letter of Transfer from Barbara Cole.
- Approved to have Rev. Lindsey Wade officiate at the Trant/Vance wedding on November 18th.
- Approved spending \$8,950 to DC Communications (a web design company in Homewood that does web design specifically for churches all over the country) to redesign our web site, develop a logo, and create some badly needed signage within and without the church.

Joe Rives reported that they delivered a total of 478 food items and \$969.06 cash to GBM for our CANpaign offering.

Joe also reported that all members of SVPC who are interested are invited to work on the Presbytery Habitat for Humanity House on Fridays and Saturdays

beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>. The house is located at 2761 20<sup>th</sup> Place Ensley.

Rev. Reed reported that the congregation has donated enough money to buy the 300 new hymnals that we wanted to get. They have been ordered and will be in use beginning with the Presbytery Meeting on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!

Rev. Reed also said that we have received bids from three insurance companies and have renewed coverage with the Insurance Board with a savings of almost \$6,000/year.

The receiver for the wireless microphones has been replaced, and the lavalier mikes and handheld mikes are functional again.

The Property committee report included that the chairs in the Fellowship Hall have been steam cleaned.

Ray McIntosh reported for Finance that we are still well ahead of budget through July in both increased giving and reduced expenses for this year and are well ahead of the same period last year, including paying for all of the painting that has been done (see the financial summary elsewhere in this Response).

## SVPC Foundation Provides \$22,800 to Worthy Causes

Since 1981, the Shades Valley Presbyterian Church Foundation has existed to accept contributions for the benefit of Shades Valley and its religious, charitable and educational programs. Contributions are invested and managed by a nine member Board of Trustees. Disbursements are made from earnings while the originally contributed principal remains in the Foundation.

Recent earnings have allowed the Foundation to make donations totaling \$22,800 to such worthy causes as SVPC's Local Ministry fund, The Presbytery of Shepherds and Lapsley's Habitat for Humanity House, the Presbytery's Congo Partnership, Stillman College, the Presbytery's Montreat Youth trip, and two educational grants to college students with ties to our congregation.

Continuation of the Foundation's ability to provide assistance to good works such as these depends on support from SVPC members and friends. If you'd like to learn more about the work of the Foundation or how to contribute to this ongoing ministry, please contact the church office or one of the Board of Trustees – Jean Archibald, George Blomeley, John Glover, Bill, Kimrey, Bruce Ludwig, Dot Riley, Gail Parrish, Shirley Shipman, or Sandy Schohenloher.

## Birmingham Youth Group



SVPC youth enjoy the BYG kickoff pool party

Birmingham Youth Group (BYG) is off to a great start this fall, with middle and high school youth participating from six Birmingham area Presbyterian churches.

Here's our September schedule:

Sept. 3 - No meeting due to Labor Day

Sept. 10 - Bowling

Sept. 17 - Peacemaking Project kickoff

Sept. 23-24 - Presbytery Youth Retreat at Living River

For more info, contact Leanne at [leanne.svpc@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.svpc@gmail.com).

## From Our Mailbox



Dear Leanne:

*On behalf of the Presbytery, I am writing to thank you and the members of the congregation for hosting the meeting of the Presbytery on August 17<sup>th</sup> and the outstanding hospitality showed to everyone that your members worked long and hard to make it a successful event.*

*The setting, the food, and the fellowship, which all of you provided, added so much to the success of the meeting. Please convey to your session, congregation and staff our gratitude for their hospitality.*

*Sincerely,  
Jay Wilkins  
Transitional Presbyter*

### SVPC - Summary of Income and Expenses Year to Date through July, 2017

Income	July YTD 2017	Budget YTD 2017	July YTD 2016
<b>General Offerings</b>			
General Offerings	262,225	230,565	257,332
Interest Revenue	24	44	84
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	671	194
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>262,249</b>	<b>231,280</b>	<b>257,610</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	134,654	138,993	171,908
Operating Expenses	89,544	91,773	70,236
Build, Bond, & Go Beyond	9,400	21,041	8,456
Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm.	298	58	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>233,897</b>	<b>251,866</b>	<b>250,600</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>28,353</b>	<b>(20,586)</b>	<b>7,010</b>

**NOTE:** The Session approved a modest deficit budget at the Session meeting on March 19, 2017 and will work to balance it by the end of the year. However, so far we have a healthy surplus because of increased giving, and expenses are under budget, including all of the painting that has been done.

Finance Committee: Anne Doty (Co-Chair), Ray McIntosh (Co-Chair), Jim Isaminger, Jim O'Connor, Mary Wyatt Bowers, John Childers (Treasurer), and Henry McPherson

A complete 2017 budget is available in the church office.

## Guest Speaker on Wednesday, August 30!

Our Wednesday night dinners resumed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The program for the second Wednesday night of the season, August 30<sup>th</sup>, includes Mr. Charles Moore, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham. This is especially timely for Shades Valley as we are supporting the Presbytery's home build in Ensley that begins on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham is part of a global nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope. Habitat Birmingham is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes by advocating for fair and just housing policies, and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, affordable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Established in 1987, Habitat Birmingham serves Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker Counties in Central Alabama. The organization is dedicated to making quality, affordable housing solutions available to low-income families. Habitat Birmingham is ranked in the top 10 out of more than 1,400 Habitat affiliates in the United States. A group from Shades Valley has been working with Habitat Birmingham on a weekly basis since the tornado outbreak in 2011.

## Sunday Morning Study Opportunities for Adults and Children each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

### Larry Richardson Class, Room 208

This class is exploring Paul's letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians, drawing on William Barclay's commentaries. Led by Jack Riley.

### Boomers and Beyond, Room 110

*What Makes You Happy* by Andy Stanley

In this video Bible study, we explore the ways we define happiness and how we find peace with God, others and ourselves. Led by Dawn Brown.

### Fellowship Class, Room 209

*Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today* by Adam Hamilton

In this study, Hamilton addresses often misunderstood biblical themes, leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving. Led by John Eagan.

### Children's Sunday School, Room 109

Elementary age children gather for fun and learning as we explore God's Word together.

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## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT UKIRK?

UKirk Birmingham (the Presbytery's new campus ministry serving students at UAB, Samford, BSC, Miles, and JSCC) is forming, growing, and evolving! We celebrate the wonderful ways God's Spirit has been at work in this Presbytery and in Birmingham among a small group of visionary, passionate students. Our Fall Kickoff will be Tuesday, September 5 at 6pm at the Clubhouse on Highland, and will begin with dinner before gathering for worship and communion. UKirk Birmingham is centered in weekly worship where we "feed each other through food and worship." In addition to our Tuesday evening worship, we offer SLCs (Small Learning Communities) that will meet for 6-8 weeks at various times and places around the city as well as opportunities to volunteer with First Light, Habitat for Humanity, and other outreach efforts. I, as the campus minister, will be on each campus throughout the week to meet students for lunch and coffee, share stories, listen to their concerns, and have some laughs.

I'd like to thank this Presbytery, Birmingham-area churches, and Shades Valley Presbyterian Church for the many ways UKirk Birmingham has been, is, and will be supported as we continue to take shape by the grace and love of God's Spirit. If you'd like to get involved in any way, check us out online at [ukirkbirmingham.org](http://ukirkbirmingham.org) or [facebook.com/ukirkbhm](https://www.facebook.com/ukirkbhm)! There's always avenues for folks to join us in our ministry with young adults!



**Presbyterian Missionaries to visit SVPC on Thursday, October 5.**

**Others in our community will also be invited!**

**Join us as we welcome them and others to our church!**



Presbyterian missionaries are dedicated servants who answer Christ's call to GO into all the world. They live in foreign lands, often lacking the creature comforts we take for granted, often in danger and all to share the Good News with our brothers and sisters in faraway places. They represent our church when and where we cannot go ourselves.

Periodically mission co-workers return to their homes for a few months, but they don't spend all their time relaxing with family and friends. They spend most of that time traveling around the denomination to share with our churches what is happening in the lives of the Christians they serve. They need to know that the church appreciates them and prays for them and supports them.

On Thursday, **OCTOBER 5** (not a typo – see below\*) Shades Valley has the opportunity to welcome **Jeff and Christi Boyd** who live and work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Jeff is Regional Liaison for Central Africa, facilitating support for the relationships, programs and activities of PC(USA) partners in the Congo.

Christi works in Congo and several other countries accompanying global partners as they seek to remedy the marginalization of women and children.

\* Our Wednesday night dinner is moved to Thursday for this week on October 5 in order for the Boyds to be with us.

*Friends, please make plans to join with the rest of our church family to welcome Christi and Jeff and thank them for their service.*



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**

On Sunday, October 1, we will receive the Peace and Global Witness offering, which enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This year, SVPC will be dedicating 25% of the offering to mission co-workers in the Congo like Jeff and Christi Boyd. Please give generously!

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	4 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	5 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support	6 3:30 p.m.—Property Mtg 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	7 5:00 p.m.—Firehouse Shelter Meeting, F. Hall	8	9 St. Luke's Mission Project— Helping to fill medical bags to be taken on an upcoming mission trip. Times to be announced, Fellowship Hall
10 <i>Hymnal dedication</i> 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 9:30 a.m.—Personnel Mtg.	11 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	12 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 12:00 p.m.—Circle 5 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support	13 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	14	15	16
17 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	18 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	19 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support	20 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	21	22	23 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.— O.E.A. Annual Conference, F. Hall
24 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	25 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells	26 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—Grief Support	27 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	28	29 7 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	30

**Shades Valley Presbyterian Church**

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Church Web Page: [www.svpcusa.org](http://www.svpcusa.org)



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**The deadline to submit articles for the OCTOBER issue of the Response is Thursday, September 21 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..*

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**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 Isaminger, 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

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