

the CrossRoads

Sabbatical Story: August 5-18

August 2, 2007
Vol. 14, No. 16



**Baptist Church
of the Covenant**

2117 University Boulevard
Birmingham, AL
35233-3188

PHONE 205-328-0644
FAX 205-328-6060
www.bcoc.net



**The Reverend Sarah
Jackson Shelton**

Pastor
sjshelton@bcoc.net

The Reverend John Duke
Minister of Education & Ministries
jduke@bcoc.net

Dr. Milburn Price
Interim Minister of Music
smprice@samford.edu

Mrs. Susan Palmer
Office Administrator
shpalmer@bcoc.net

Mrs. Ann Morris
Assistant Office Administrator
ammorris@bcoc.net

Mr. James W. Hawley
Facilities Manager
jwhawley@bcoc.net

Miss Melissa Evans
Youth Activities Director
maevans00@hotmail.com



**Baptist Church of the
Covenant**
Where Faith Comes
to Life

Rev. Rebecca DeBow is the Associate Rector of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church. She served as rector of Saint Francis, Indian Springs, for ten years, where she helped build a church and blessed many animals. Prior to that, she was curate at Saint Stephen's, Birmingham. After working as a paralegal in Washington, D.C. and mothering two young children, Rebecca earned a Master of Divinity at the Candler School of Theology (Emory University). She was ordained to the priesthood in August of 1995. For recreation, Rebecca enjoys playing with her bad dog, Rosie (a Tibetan Terrier), hiking at Camp McDowell, traveling, and reading fiction. Rebecca's husband, Mike, teaches property and business organizations, among other things, at the Cumberland School of Law. Her son, John, attends the University of Alabama and her daughter, Claire, attends The University of the South.



**Guest Preacher
August 5**



**Guest Preacher
August 12**

Rev. Thomas Wilder is the pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in the Collegeville community of Birmingham. He has served for this capacity for the past 19 years. Under his leadership, the church has successfully led efforts to get listed as a National Historic Landmark, receive a grant from the Save America's Treasure Organization for the restoration of the historic building and have the church featured in numerous historic publications as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. Thomas also works as Alagasco's Manager of Community Development. Thomas earned his master's degree in business administration from UAB in 1998 and a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in 1980. He has an honorary doctorate in business administration from Faith Grant College and was recognized as one of the Birmingham Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40. A native of Aliceville, Thomas, his wife, Mechelle and their four children reside in Birmingham.

On Call Schedule

John Duke, 482-6280

Week of August 5 - August 11

Jack Brymer, Lay Minister, 824-6431

Denise Gardner, Deacon of the Week, 815-3867

Week of August 12 - August 18

Malcolm Marler, Lay Minister, 287-2040

Peggy Hall, Deacon of the Week, 967-1908

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM
August 8: **Bill Brill - Prayer Service**
August 15: **Fisher Humphreys -
We Are Children of God**

Sarah's Sabbatical Highlights!
Week of August 5 - Family Beach Trip
Week of August 12 - Interview Fred Craddock

Griffin Retreat

As a part of the sabbatical plans, a retreat has been planned for at Baptist Church of the Covenant for Saturday, August 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Bill and Emilie Griffin will be leading us that Saturday morning. According to their description of the retreat, they will speak about how Christian disciplines of Word and Story help us grow deeper in the spiritual life. They will use biblical stories and examples from the Christian devotional classics, including some modern stories, to shine a light on our own development in the Christian life. They will also be available individually Saturday, Sunday, and Monday afternoons for 50 minute sessions of spiritual direction. These will involve one of the Griffins serving as listener and guide, and working with participants to talk about things going on in their lives, stresses, joys, or thoughts about the future, and then trying to discern God's action or will within those events. There are 16 sessions available, and there is a fee of \$50 for each session, although scholarships are available upon request. The available times are Saturday at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00, Sunday at 3:00 and 4:00, and Monday at 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00. You may call the church office to request a session and may request either Bill or Emile. Whether or not you take advantage of the individual sessions, we hope you will plan on joining us Saturday morning August 18 for the retreat.

About the Griffins

Emilie is a professional writer and editor. Her first book, *Turning*, drew on five modern stories of Christian conversion including that of C.S. Lewis. She has now written fifteen books on Christian spirituality. Emilie has worked extensively as a retreat and workshop leader. She is a member of the board of RENOVARE, an infra-church movement committed to Christian renewal.

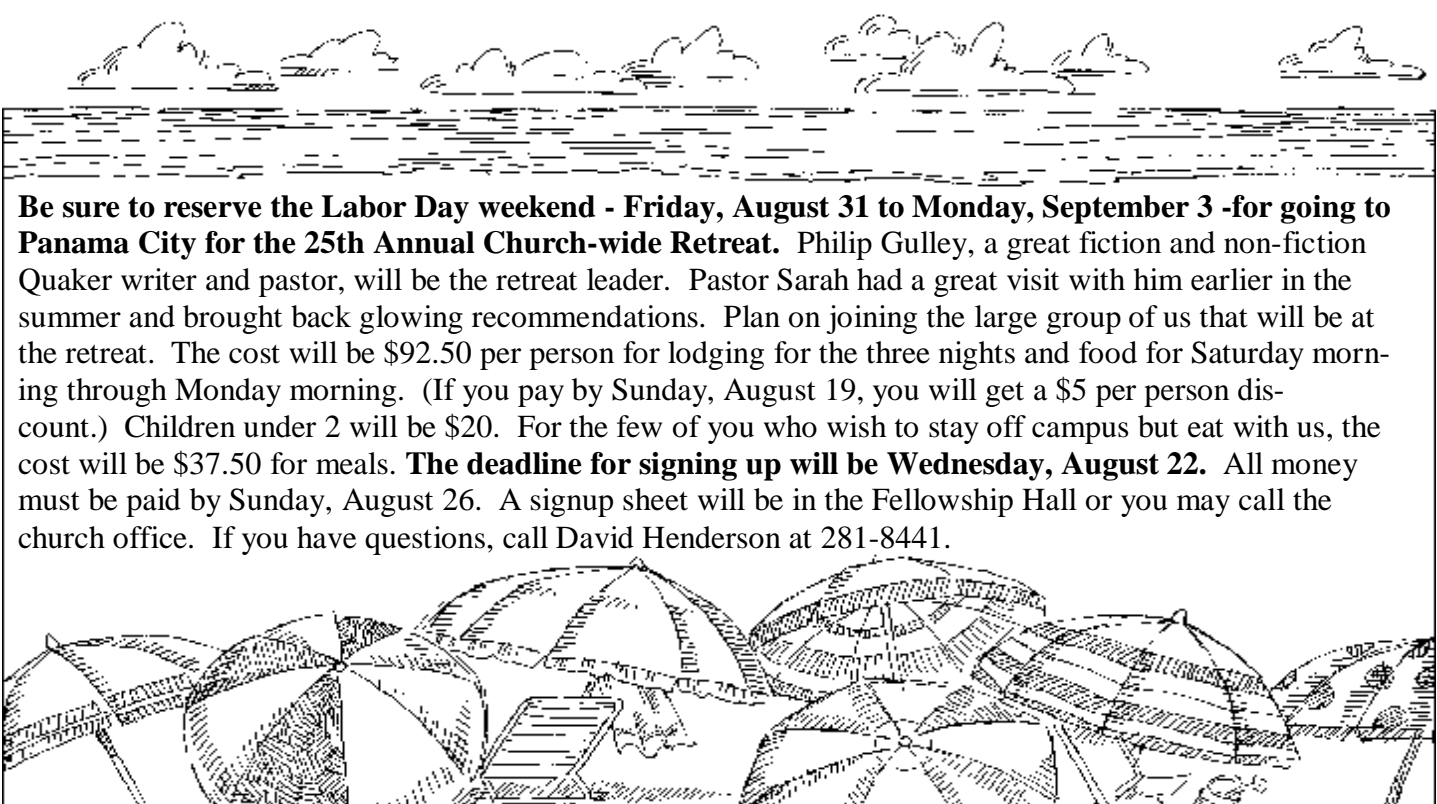
William Griffin is a writer, editor, and publishing veteran who is an authority on C.S. Lewis, and recently authored several modern renderings of Latin spiritual classics by Augustine of Hippo and Thomas A Kempis.

Both Griffins were founding members of the Chrysostom Society, a national writers group formed in the 1980s. Since 1998 the Griffins have lived in Alexandria, LA.

Sunday, August 19

Emilie Griffin to preach during worship.

Bill and Emilie will teach the combined adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall.



Be sure to reserve the Labor Day weekend - Friday, August 31 to Monday, September 3 -for going to Panama City for the 25th Annual Church-wide Retreat. Philip Gulley, a great fiction and non-fiction Quaker writer and pastor, will be the retreat leader. Pastor Sarah had a great visit with him earlier in the summer and brought back glowing recommendations. Plan on joining the large group of us that will be at the retreat. The cost will be \$92.50 per person for lodging for the three nights and food for Saturday morning through Monday morning. (If you pay by Sunday, August 19, you will get a \$5 per person discount.) Children under 2 will be \$20. For the few of you who wish to stay off campus but eat with us, the cost will be \$37.50 for meals. **The deadline for signing up will be Wednesday, August 22.** All money must be paid by Sunday, August 26. A signup sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall or you may call the church office. If you have questions, call David Henderson at 281-8441.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Week of July 22

Budget	\$4,175.42
Gardner Fund	1,075.00
Gardner Fund (Jadita)	140.00
Youth (Can Recycling)	40.20
Passport Kenya	675.00

Week of July 29

Budget	\$4,582.00
Building/Property	125.00
Gardner Fund	1,512.00
Gardner Fund (Jadita)	40.00
Garumtoney Orphans	100.00
Passport Kenya	300.00
CBF Missions	5.00

YTD - June 2007

YTD Receipts - \$251,939.75

YTD Expenditures - \$248,472.41

YTD Budget Requirements - \$277,917.48

New Sunday School Class Offered This Fall

Interested persons are encouraged to register with the church office for a class to begin in September called "Christianity After Jesus: The First 300 Years". It will survey how the church came about after Pentecost, it's conflict with Judaism and the Roman Empire, how the New Testament came to be, heresies, how the catholic church evolved and became Roman Catholic, monasticism, the horrible persecutions early Christians faced, Constantine's declaration of the Empire's switch to Christianity, etc. Paul Hall will lead the class which is expected to last for about eight months.

For many of us, summer brings a welcome variation in schedule—trips to the beach, afternoons by the pool, baseball games, etc. But during the summer, most of the functions of BCOC continue as usual and require the usual level of support. So if you are enjoying a change in routine during the summer months, don't forget that BCOC still relies on your regular financial support. Your faithful giving during the summer months will ensure that the ministries of the church will continue to serve regardless of the season. Thanks!

Morgan Ponder, Treasurer

We all have a story.....

While Sarah has been our pastor we have heard many of her stories, and she has helped us see how our own life stories can intersect with Biblical stories. During Pastor Sarah's sabbatical she is listening to the stories of various storytellers, preachers, and authors. The Sabbatical Committee (and Pastor Sarah) invites you to write down your own story (your entire life story, or parts of it). When she returns from her sabbatical in September copies of the stories members of our church have written will be presented to her during the Welcome Home party. When you have your story written, please turn it in to the church office.

At Home
Linda Scott



Mexico
Rosalia Marquez

Rehabilitation and Healthcare
Jerry Martin
2728 South 10th Avenue, 35205

Hong Kong
Jerry and Ruth Moyer

Peace Corps, Benin, West Africa
Charles Reeves



August

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 5-Baeka Boylan | 14-Shirley Brymer |
| 7-Mary Sullivan | 14-Rachel Richardson |
| 9-Rick Traylor | 17-Michael Gill |
| 10-CJ Bower | 18-Lloyd Shelton |
| 11-Monty Hogewood | 18-Leah Shell |
| 12-Laurie White | |



Joyce Mitchell

in the death of her mother
Emma Louise Mitchell

Jerry Burke
in the death of his father

Hospitality Network

Our next Hospitality Network week is coming up and will be the week of August 12-19. We again need people to spend the night each of those nights (starting at about 7:30 p.m. and staying until they leave early in the mornings), to bring suppers and/or to be here with them from about 5:00 until the "night shift" arrives at about 7:30, and to bring breakfast foods. We will again be partnering with Beloved Community UCC Church. If you would be willing to help in one of these ways, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Linda Martin or Ann Wade.

Send Off Party for
Elaine, Michael and Matthew Childs
Monday, August 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
at the Grooms' home
1025 Forest Brook Drive
945-1089

Week of August 5

Week of August 12

Jack Brymer, Lay Minister, 824-6431
Denise Gardner, Deacon of the Week, 815-3867

Sunday, August 5

VSP Pickup - Elaine Peterson and Tex Hawley
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship: Rebecca DeBow, pulpit guest
Lobby Monitor - Don Yates
Ushers - Deacons
Greeters - Deacons
Offering - Deacons
Preschool - Jill Holley, Katie Ponder
Offering Counters - David Henderson, Cindy Ponder
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship, Chuck Rogers
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner
VSP - Elaine Peterson
Sack Lunches - Seekers
Building Lockup - David Goodwin
11:45 a.m. - Staff Committee
11:45 a.m. - Teachers' Meeting

Monday, August 6

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
6:30 p.m. - Send Off Party for the Childs' at the Grooms' home,
1025 Forest Brook Drive, 945-1089

Tuesday, August 7

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, August 8

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper
Menu: Char-grilled Chicken Breast, Squash and Zucchini Sauté,
Almond Rice, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler
Clean Up: Larry FitzGerald, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, Mary Oswald,
Gayle Watts
6:15 p.m. - Children's Missions & Youth Program
6:30 p.m. - Bill Brill, Prayer Service
Lockup: David Henderson
7:00 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal
Choir Lockup: Tex Hawley

Saturday, August 11

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: Abby Wiggins,
Liesl Ward

Malcolm Marler, Lay Minister, 287-2040
Peggy Hall, Deacon of the Week, 967-1908

Hospitality Network at BCOC

Sunday, August 12

VSP Pickup - Bill Smith
9:00 a.m.-Morning Worship: Thomas Wilder, pulpit guest
Lobby Monitor - David Litton
Ushers - Lynn Groom, Rick Mitchell
Greeters - Jean Thomason, Kelly Mitchell
Offering - David Groom, Frances Ferguson
Preschool - Carol Dean
Offering Counters - Jenny Smith, Pam Baggett
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship, Elaine Peterson
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner
VSP - Elaine Peterson
Sack Lunches - Youth
Building Lockup - David Goodwin

Monday, August 13

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 14

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, August 15

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper
Menu: Pasta Bar with Marinara Sauce, Grilled Chicken Strips,
Italian Sausage, Meatballs, Italian Green Beans, Tossed
Salad, Italian Bread, Lemon Ice Box Pie
Clean Up: Betty Bock, Patrick Chappell, Carol Dean, John Hollis
6:15 p.m. - Children's Missions & Youth Program
6:30 p.m. - Fisher Humphreys - *We Are Children of God*
Lockup: David Henderson
7:00 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal
Choir Lockup: Rick Traylor

Saturday, August 18

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: Sharon Chappell,
Connie Bowers



Baptist Church of the Covenant
2117 University Boulevard
Birmingham, Alabama 35233-3188

Periodical Postage Paid at
Birmingham, Alabama
"The CrossRoads" (USPS 333-190)
is published bi-weekly by the
Baptist Church of the Covenant,
2117 University Boulevard,
Birmingham, AL 35233-3188.
POSTMASTER: Send changes to:
The CrossRoads,
2117 University Boulevard,
Birmingham, AL 35233-3188.