



News from up the Creek



The monthly NEWSLETTER of Spring Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Issue 2

Those who follow Jesus Christ shall "be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season..." Psalms 1:3

February 1, 2025

Happy February to all!

This month I am turning the front-page article over to Jennifer Robbins, our church secretary. In addition to her secretarial duties, Jennifer writes an article for our Facebook page and website each week titled "Motivational Monday." They are always so good and well . . .motivational. She takes a topic, applies Scripture, adds life experience, humor, inspiration, and woo-la, a short read that is encouraging to our congregation week by week.

And be encouraged today. Thank you, Jennifer!

Hey friends! As I was thinking about what to write today, I was hit in the face with a subject idea (thanks to my best friend). Judgment. Who is supposed to pass judgment? So let's talk about it.

When I was younger, I used to judge others pretty harshly. I honestly don't know why because I never thought of myself as better than anyone else (truly). I guess, in my mind, right is right and wrong is wrong. As I have aged, I see there is a lot of gray in that black and white. Maybe this is easier for me to see because I have my own past. And in this past, I needed people to see my gray and not judge me. But, here's the funny part, I DID need them to judge me. What I needed was grace, love and accountability. And to hold someone accountable that involves judgment. And those closest to me did and they helped change me (which I am forever grateful).

Following Jesus is simple, but not easy.

Matthew 7:1 simply states, "Judge not, that you be not judged." That's pretty direct, right? But let's look at the verses after that, "For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Matthew 7:2-5.

If you read Matthew 7:1 and nothing else, it seems pretty clear. But when you keep reading, you realize Jesus tells listeners how to approach someone who is behaving poorly. If you skip down to Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus says that we can discern the true character of people by observing the fruit they bear. So, can we judge or not? Because, as a Christian, I feel like I am in a trap. If I judge someone, I'm a hypocrite but if I don't then I am not spreading the true gospel. Personal opinion here, but this feels like the devil is doing his work perfectly. We are doubting ourselves and

we are allowing Jesus's own words to stop us.

Judging is looking at another person's action in such a way that you are pronouncing guilt on them. But what if that person has told you they were guilty? They are coming to you needing guidance. During his time on Earth, Jesus lived what he taught, and he regularly (and rather assertively) addressed people's harmful choices. So it wouldn't make sense for him to prohibit us from using discernment in our relationships or the world at large. I believe when Jesus used the word "judge" he referred to condemning others or treating them with judgmental contempt.

Let's go back to Matthew 7:3-5 above. Jesus' words suggest there is a time and place to speak up when you see a problem. Like Jesus, we *can* call out wrongdoing in ways that do not condemn or diminish anyone else. But notice that it isn't until the final line of his metaphor that Jesus says anything about assessing another person's behavior. The majority of his instruction is about the important first step of self-reflection. This is where I used to fall off the wagon on the whole "judging others" thing. My self reflection was TERRIBLE!!

Recognizing, acknowledging and addressing our own failures is a *very* humbling experience. And if you have ever been in a situation where you are lost (mentally and spiritually) but you emerged on the other side...then you know. You were humbled to your core. From this place of honest humility, we are less likely to judgmentally condemn or think less of others.


This week, as you are watching the news or listening to a friend/family, pay attention to your thoughts or words. Notice when judgment escapes. Where is this coming from? This is where self reflection comes into play. Likewise, if a friend is telling you something that is wrong, then stand up and say something! If they are your friend, they will appreciate you (maybe not right then but later). It **IS** ok to hold people accountable for their sins. Mine did. They listened, loved me and showed me grace. And because of this accountability and love, I chose to come out the other side.

Love you all,
Jennifer

FUNDRAISER

Missions Luncheon March 16th right after morning worship.


Dr. Scott Fowler, Pastor
Kathy Huggins, Children's Director
Jaye Locks, Youth Director
Amy Horie, Music Director
Janie Gilliland, Nursery
Jennifer Robbins, Secretary



3411 Spring Creek Road
Montevallo, Alabama 35115
205-665-4184
Email: scpcchurch@yahoo.com

DAILY BIBLE READINGS			
DATE	MORNING	EVENING	DATE
MATTHEW	21:1-22	27,28	17
EXODUS	21:1-22	27,28	17
MARK	1:1-22	29,30	18
LEVITICUS	1:1-22	31,32,33	18
NUMBERS	1:1-22	34,35	18
	1:23-45	36,37,38	19
	2	39,40	20
	3:1-19	23:23-39	21
	3:20-35	24:1-28	22
	4:1-20	24:29-51	23
	4:21-41	25:1-30	24
	5:1-20	25:31-46	25
	5:21-43	26:1-25	26
	6:1-29	26:26-50	27
	6:30-56	26:51-75	28
	7:1-13	27:1-26	29
		27:27-50	15

BIBLE READER



Last Month's numbers

Rose Toney - 2/10	Jennifer Robbins - 2/11	McEachern Horie - 2/16	Melody Byford - 2/17	21:1-22	27,28	17
				21:23-46	29,30	18
				22:1-22	31,32,33	18
				22:23-46	34,35	19
				23:1-22	36,37,38	20
				23:23-39	39,40	21
				24:1-28	1,2,3	22
				24:29-51	4,5	23
				25:1-30	6,7	24
				25:31-46	8,9,10	25
				26:1-25	11,12	26
				26:26-50	13	27
				26:51-75	14	28
				27:1-26	15,16	29
				27:27-50	17,18	15

T.E.A.M.s—

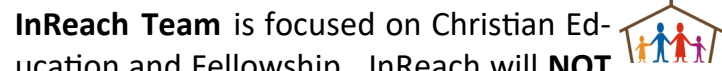


You are welcome to join any of the T.E.A.M.s. Information on each of the Teams is available in the foyer.

Only the InReach Team will meet on February 5th at 7:00pm to plan for the new year.



OutReach Team is focused on missions and missionaries. The team did not meet in December but will meet in January.



InReach Team is focused on Christian Education and Fellowship. InReach will **NOT** meet for January.



UpReach Team is focused on Worship and Prayer. Will meet on a quarterly basis.

Buildings and Grounds Team— focuses on improvement and maintenance of our church facilities.

C.P.W.M.—



CPWM will meet on **Thursday, February 15th** at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. It will be followed with a bring-a-dish lunch. All ladies of the church are welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Men's Fellowship Sunday breakfast will meet on **February 16th at 8:00am**. All men and boys are invited to a hearty breakfast and fellowship.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES—

Will be on **February 12th and 26th at 7:00pm**. Contact Ben & Debbie Ingram for study materials. Join in anytime.

KREEK KIDS—

The Kreek Kids are planning their "Hugs and Kisses" event. They have been planning special and fun things for our Magnolia Ladies and Gentlemen on **February 9th, 3:00-4:30pm**.

YOUTH GROUP—

Meet on Sunday evenings **5:00-6:30pm**.

CHOIR—

Will resume rehearsals on **March 9th at 5:00pm**. Anyone 12 and up are invited to join as we prepare for the Easter Season.

YOUNG MARRIEDS GET TOGETHER—

Will meet Sunday February 16th at 5:00-6:30pm.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—

The Session met on January 16th.

Highlights of the meeting are:

- ◆ Allow a community bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Repair roof on the walkway between buildings
- ◆ Presented nomination list of elders
- ◆ Ron will look into getting the coffee pot fixed or replaced.

Next meeting will be **February 20th**.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU—

Elder installations were held Sunday, January 26th, during Morning Worship. The new elders for the 2025 Session are Charlie Smith, Matt Fridy, and Rick Ingram. We thank these elders for their service and dedication.

PHOTO DIRECTORY—

We are in the planning phase of a new directory. Casual photo sessions will be the first two weekends in March. More information to follow.



Hugs and Kisses will be February 9th 3pm-4:30pm for the Magnolia Ladies and Gentlemen. We hope to see you there!

Spring Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church

February 2025

"We Live by faith, not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Midweek Message every Wednesday by 7:00pm			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			T.E.A.M. Meeting 7:00pm			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Men's & Women's Bible Studies 7:00pm		Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am		Session Meeting 7:00pm		CPWM Meeting— 10:30am		
23	24	28	26	27	28	
			Men's & Women's Bible Studies 7:00pm			