



DECEMBER 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----|---|
| | 1 12:00 - O.A. Mtg. 7:00 - A.A. Mtg. | 2 10:00 - PW #1 Circle 6:00 - CE Comm. Mtg. | 3 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 6:00 - Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 - PW #2 Circle Mtg. 6:30 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 4 7:00 - AA Mtg | 5 | 6 1 - 2:30 Youth Challenge Testing |
| 7 COMMUNION 12:00 - Children's Christmas Party (Sue Scheer) | 8 12:00 - O.A. Mtg 7:00 - A.A. Mtg. | 9 | 10 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:30 - Fellowship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 11 10:00 - BFB/Crafters 5:00 - Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 6:30 - Bldg & Grnds Comm. Mtg 7:00 - AA Mtg | 12 | 13 5:30 - 7:30 Live Nativity |
| 14 11:00 Christmas Music Worship Service 12:30 - 3:30 GRG Christmas Dinner (Cooper Keller) | 15 12:00 - O.A. Mtg 7:00 - A.A. Mtg | 16 9:00 - Early Risers @ CFA 7:00 - Stated Session Mtg. | 17 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:30 - Witness Comm. Mtg. 6:30 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal | 18 7:00 - AA Mtg | 19 | 20 1 - 4:00 Parents' Day Out |
| 21 (Linda Roberts) | 22 12:00 - O.A. Mtg 7:00 - A.A. Mtg | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 7:30 AM - AA Mtg 6:00 - Christmas Eve Service | 25 Merry Christmas!! Office Closed 7:00 - AA Mtg | 26 | 27 4:00 - New Glory |
| Christmas Break - School's Out | | | | | | |
| 28 (Adam Dunn) | 29 12:00 - O.A. Mtg 7:00 - A.A. Mtg | 30 | 31 7:30 AM - AA Mtg New Year's Eve | | | |
| Christmas Break - School's Out | | | | | | |



12/1 Shannon Huggins
 12/4 Stephanie Dunn
 12/7 Thomas Baxter
 12/8 Pearl Williams
 12/10 Carolyn Waits
 12/12 Ralph Pack
 12/14 Josiah Brown
 12/14 John Kelly
 12/16 Georgia Silvey
 12/20 Cindy Dunlap
 12/21 Maxwell Baxter

12/22 John Abbott
 12/22 Nancy Bryant
 12/22 Lynn Pack
 12/23 Collin Roberts
 12/24 Bill Holmes
 12/25 Penny Harrison
 12/27 Joan Scott
 12/29 Doug Sewell
 12/29 Joyce Andrews



Volume 14 Issue 12

SPC SPOTLIGHT



The Church At The Bridge

From My Heart To Yours

The other day I attended a meeting where people were talking about what kind of year 2014 had been for them – the good parts and the not-so-good – and then told their hopes for 2015. For many of these folks, 2014 hadn't been their best year ever. There were stories of unemployment, loss, disillusionment of all kinds. Other folks were more satisfied, but both groups had one thing in common: hope. Every single one had a sure and strong hope, even a faith, that 2015 would be better.

Few of us like change, and it's during times of change that our hope and faith are more necessary than ever. There's really so little that we can actually control, is there? It's not hard to figure out that God is the one in control, and our job is to trust him and know we're safe in him. He's the rock-solid foundation of all our hope and faith. And trusting him is the only thing that can give us peace of mind!

As the Elder Nominating Committee went prayerfully and carefully about their work this year, they had moments where they needed a fresh dose of faith and hope. Although many good people were invited to serve on Session, only one felt led to accept: we're VERY thankful to welcome Kim Seal back on to Session, as she's repeatedly proven herself to be a strong, faithful elder. This means that we'll have 8 sitting elders in 2015, which is a lower number than we're used to.

As this news sunk in during the last ENC meeting, Mary Carol Stanley, a school administrator, spoke up and said, "At school we've found that actually, a smaller number is usually just as good or better. If the people serving really want to be there and want to work hard together, you can get just as much accomplished as you could with a larger group. Sometimes more!"

In a heartbeat, we all knew she'd spoken the truth. Our active elders for 2015 will be Darin Clipper, John Dunn, Lee Hart, Arlene Lathrop, Betty Pickren, Doug Richardson, Aaron Roberts, and Kim Seal.

We're going to be fine.

Elder Training this January will consist of a day of prayer, discussion, planning, and reorganization. We have no idea if we'll keep our current committees or make changes. We're not sure yet who all will be doing what. But I have complete faith that this group of loving, committed people will, through God's Spirit and with us all working together, accomplish all that God wants to see at SPC in 2015.

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

With much gratitude, we want you to know that although Jim Beisner is rotating off Session, he'll continue as Clerk. Jim and Peggy live in Griffin and have full schedules, so his continued service as Clerk is just a huge blessing. Thank you, Jim.

After 3 years of faithful, often behind-the-scenes service in Buildings and Grounds, Jason Howard will also rotate off. He's thorough, skilled, tenacious, and fully committed to SPC and the work he does here in service to God. He's also a very good Liturgist and has a wry sense of humor that makes him fun to be around. Thank you, Jason.

Sue Scheer is also rotating off Session and her position as Chair of the Witness Committee. Heart and soul, Sue has thrown herself and her considerable talents into neighborhood outreach and service, creating new mission events and strengthening existing ministries. Also, Sue has reached INward, to the congregation, organizing new ministries of love and care. She's a Spirit-driven powerhouse! Thank you, Sue.

We'll miss these 3 Elders and hope to lure them back on to Session when the time is right. But I'm excited and thankful for the current Session and completely confident that God will make his will known – as he has already in the composition of the Session. Change is coming, but our hope and our faith in God reassure us that it'll be good change. Keep praying and loving! And have the best Christmas and New Year ever. Much love to all of you –

Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

DEC 7 Isaiah 40:1-11
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 "God's Truth > Our Timing"

DEC 14 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 "God's Truth Is Our Joy"

DEC 21 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:26-38
 "God's Truth Through the Generations"

DEC 24 Christmas Eve Service
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Titus 2:11-14
 "God's Truth In the Flesh"

DEC 28 Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Luke 2:22-40
 "God's Truth As a Gift"



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Christmas Baskets

We are getting close to the conclusion to this year's Christmas Basket shopping spree. Our first week was amazing and we were off to a fantastic start. However, our pace has slowed A LOT since then. More than half of the kids are left to be adopted. Also, remember that our Youth Group will take care of the shopping if you would prefer to just donate \$75.00 per child. You may contact the SPC office or email / call Aaron Roberts at arob12001@gmail.com / 678-859-2767. Sherry McGee and Sue Scheer are also available to answer your questions. Plus, signup sheets will be in Narthex each Sunday until every child is claimed. This is an "all hands on deck" time of the year for SPC, so let's conjure that Christmas for the Needy spirit and get to work. Thanks to each and every one of you for your generosity.

Thornwell Fuzzy Tree

"Look at me, I'm naked as can be!"
 "They put me here to be
 the Thornwell Fuzzy Tree!"
 "Run to the store, And buy some hats,
 scarves, gloves, and more!"

Cover my branches,
 don't let any green show,
 Your love for these children,
 you'll want them to know.

Make sure they are warm
 Make sure they don't freeze.
 Make sure they don't get sick or cough or
 sneeze.

All the fuzzies will be worn with love.
 And God will be smiling from up above.

Bring items, outer garments, P.J., toiletries
 by Monday, December 8th. The tree is lo-
 cated in the Narthex.

Parents' Day Out

Parents' Day Out is scheduled for **Saturday, December 20th from 1-4:00 PM.** Childcare is being provided for parents to do their Christmas shopping, gift wrapping, or other Christmas season activities. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Stephanie Phillips at 678-788-3965.



YOUTH NEWS

Hello to all,
 I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are ready to take this Christmas season on with gusto.

I guess you all know me by now, and if you do, you know that Charlie Brown's Christmas is one of my all time favorites.

Charlie Brown like so many of us, just wants to do what's right but somehow is always messing things up. His intentions are so good, so pure but for some reason things just don't seem to work out for him. Linus is his best friend who is care free and seems to just get how this life works, deals with it and gets on with it. Sometimes I'm a Linus but mostly I'm a Charlie Brown. What about you?

Linus or Charlie Brown??? I think either is fine and most of us are a little or a lot of both...

Charlie Brown was put in charge of all the unruly kids trying to put on the best Christmas Pageant ever. But he was treated with no respect, no consideration and yet he still pushed onward. And of course you know how the tree thing worked out for him. The BIG beautiful trees all glamorous and boastful didn't hold beauty to Charlie Brown...but the tiny little twig of a tree stole his heart...he knew that it represented his own simple little life surrounded by his large and boastful friends.

He wanted to take it home, dress it up and make it the most beautiful Christmas tree ever...but that too turned into a disaster. But his faithful friend Linus helps him to understand what "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" also learned. That Christmas doesn't come from the store, wrapped up in pretty paper and bows. Christmas comes from our hearts...and the really wonderful thing about the meaning of Christmas is that we can celebrate it all the year through.

So if you ever forget just ask Linus what the real meaning of Christmas is:

Charlie Brown: I guess you were right, Linus. I shouldn't have picked this little tree. Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about.

[shouting in desperation]
 Charlie Brown: Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?

Linus Van Pelt: Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

[a spotlight shines on Linus]

Linus Van Pelt: "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring unto

YOUTH NEWS

you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

[Linus picks up his blanket and walks back towards Charlie Brown]

Linus Van Pelt: That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown!

Luke 2: 1-20

Never forget the true meaning of this season, the sweet baby under that BIG star who came into this world to save us all.

I love you Jesus!

Love to you all,
 Stephanie



YOUTH EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Volunteer shopping for SPC's adopted families Dec 1 through Dec. 14. Please contact me or Aaron Roberts if you would like us (the youth) to shop for your adopted Christmas family.

Dec 7: Children's Christmas Party

Dec 14: Caroling 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Dec 21 & 28: No youth meeting

GRG NEWS & EVENTS

Attention Church Members 50+
 Gold Rush Gang - Christmas Luncheon **Cost: \$20**
 Sunday, December 14, 2014 in Fellowship Hall
 Fellowship: 12:30 PM Lunch: 1:00 PM

Here comes Santa Claus,
 Here comes Santa Claus
 Right down Santa Claus Lane,
 Oh! What a sight!
 The fireworks on the 4th
 Were just booming last night!
 The trick and treat candy is all gone,
 And the turkey & trimming
 Have march on!

Now comes the beautiful
 Time of the year
 The time of the birth of our Savior Dear.

And the annual Gold Rush
 Christmas Luncheon is near.

Please make your reservation,
 Because we want to have you there.
 You'll enjoy great food and the entertainment is live.
 The ventriloquist really can make that puppet jive!

It'll be so much fun
 Celebrating the season with every one!

Please let Carol or John Abbott know the week of
 December 1st, if you plan to attend.

WORSHIP/WITNESS NEWS



Live Nativity

Follow the Star to our annual "Live Nativity", **December 13th, at 5:30 PM.** The celebration of our Savior's birth is a heartwarming experience shared by all. Your presence is needed to make it complete.

Goodness & Groceries

The days have gotten short and the nights have gotten cold! For those reasons, Goodness and Groceries will now take place at **5:00 pm on Wednesdays**, instead of 6:30. Please join us if you can, as we help feed children in our own neighborhood who are hungry on the weekends. Your help is needed and appreciated!

HOMEGROWN HYMNS CD

Copies of Zach Smith's Homegrown Hymns CD are still available for Christmas. Linda Hodges in the church office or any member of the witness committee will be happy to assist you with your purchase.

Some of the most beautiful "Homegrown Hymns" for only \$10.00 is a great buy. The proceeds not only help with our outreach mission programs, but help with Zach's continuing education.



PER CAPITA GIVING

Over the past several years your support in paying the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta per capita has been greatly appreciated. The Session is again asking your support with per capita in 2014 by providing a gift of \$22.00 per SPC member. We are moving into the last month of the year and are praying you consider a gift.

SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Clerk's Report: The Session received a note from the Abbotts thanking the Session for the gift in commemoration of their service as greeters.

Jim reminded the committee chairs their input to the 2014 annual report will be due the end of January 2015. Instructions will be distributed at the October Stated Session meeting.

Jim reminded committee chairs to start their event planning for 2015. Items for the 2015 Activities Calendar will be due the end of November 2015 in order for the Session to approve the calendar at the December Stated meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved.
Buildings and Grounds Committee: The Session approved allowing the ladies of New Glory to use the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 22 from 8am to 3pm for their annual breakfast/prayer meeting.

The Session approved Overeaters Anonymous to meet in the Conference Room or Parlor every Monday from noon to 1pm.

The Session approved allowing Alisa Newsome to use the Fellowship Hall on November 1, 2014 from 2 to 10 pm for a birthday party.

Christian Education Committee: Aaron had no issues or recommendations.

Fellowship Committee: John had no issues or recommendations.

Stewardship Committee: The September 2014 financial statement was reviewed.

The Session approved a Christmas gift to each staff member of \$75.00.

Witness Committee: The Session approved use of the Fellowship Hall, November 16, 2014 after worship service for a small reception of cookies and punch to begin the sales of Zach's CD to our congregation and friends.

The Session approved adding 20 to 25 new students from Woodland Elementary to the GNG program. We are currently serving 72 students, and Betsy feels we can easily accommodate up to 100.

Worship Committee: Arlene had no issues or recommendations.

Pastor's Report: Susan had no report.

New Business: The Session approved moving the congregation meeting scheduled on 11/9/2014 to 11/16/2014.

The Session appointed Aaron Roberts to review the Session meetings 2014 minutes.

The Session appointed Betty Pickren and Sue Scheer to review the membership rolls.

The Session approved the following distribution of the gift from Peggy Campbell's estate: \$1,000 each is given to Shining Light, Hands

SESSION CONT

of Hope Clinic and Joseph's Pantry. \$15,000 is placed in reserve. Purchase 4 CD's at \$25,000 each with laddered expiration dates.

The Session approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by Shannon Huggins on 12/20/2014 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm for a Girl Scout Christmas party and investiture ceremony.

The Session approved the use of an education building room on Tuesday evenings for 6-8 weeks by Boy Scouts for training. Use will start as soon as possible.

The session approved two parents' day out sessions before the end of 2014 with dates and times to be determined.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

Dec 7 Jason Howard
 Dec 14 Aaron Roberts
 Dec 21 Darin Clipper
 Dec 28 Tony Williams

ACOLYTE

Dec 7 Cydnee Keller
 Dec 14 Aubrey & Miranda Morrow
 Dec 21 Lorren Huggins
 Dec 28 Elora Newsome

LITURGISTS

Dec 7 Sue Scheer
 Dec 14 Cooper Keller
 Dec 21 Linda Roberts
 Dec 28 Adam Dunn

HEAD USHER - DECEMBER 2014

Worship Committee

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Dec 7 Wendy Wells
 Dec 14 Stephanie Dunn
 Dec 21 Aaron Roberts
 Dec 28 TBD

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

Dec 7 Wendy & Megan Wells
 Dec 14 The Keller Family
 Dec 21 Kim Seal/Phyllis Howard
 Dec 28 Greg Lathrop/Bryan Wharton

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SERVICE TO SPC AND GOD'S KINGDOM