



MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 COMMUNION (Adam Dunn)	3 7:00 A.A. Meeting	4 9:00 Early Risers @ CFA 10:00 PW #1	5 6:30 G&G 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	6 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 A.A. Meeting	7	8 4:00 New Glory
9 Daylight saving time begins 12:00 Relay for Life Fundraiser/Ham Dinner 1st Sunday in Lent (Linda Roberts)	10 7:00 A.A. Meeting	11 9:00 Early Risers @ The Plaza 10:00 GRG - IMAX 6:00 CE Comm. Mtg.	12 5:30 Fellowship Comm. Mtg 6:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:15 PW #2 6:30 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 Women's Bible Study 4:00 Stewardship Comm. Mtg 6:30 B & G Comm. Mtg. 7:00 A.A. Meeting	14	15 1-2:30 Youth Challenge Testing 4:00 New Glory
16 2nd Sunday in Lent (Greg Lathrop)	17 7:00 A.A. Meeting	18 9:00 Early Risers @ B&B 7:00 Stated Session Mtg.	19 5:30 Witness Comm. Mtg 6:00 G & G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 BFB 7:00 A.A. Meeting	21	22 4:00 New Glory
23 12:00 3rd Sunday in Lent (Cooper Keller)	24 7:00 A.A. Meeting	25 9:00 Early Risers @ CFA	26 6:30 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 A.A. Meeting	28	29 4:00 New Glory
30 4th Sunday in Lent (Laura Richardson)	31 7:00 A.A. Meeting					

	3/1 Aaron Dunn	3/14 Tony Williams
	3/3 Patsy Hembree	3/17 Joan Cobb
	3/4 Landon Robertson	3/18 Adam Dunn
	3/4 Pat Stanley	3/24 Kim Seal
	3/6 Kristi Richardson	3/25 Rick Hemmle
	3/7 Matthew Beebe	3/28 Tracey Clipper
	3/12 Dora McManus	3/29 Barry Newsome
	3/13 Justin Seal	3/29 Rose White
	3/13 Anne Watson	3/30 Bob Johnson

To everything there is a
Season
 and a time to every
 purpose under
Heaven
 ECCLESIASTES 3:1

SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

Well, February 2014 won't soon be forgotten – and we're all glad it's over! Snow, ice, and power outages are nobody's idea of a good time, and we've had lots of all three lately. March is always a question mark, however – more cold weather, or the beginning of spring? Only time will tell.

Due to illness, I was away the first two Sundays in February. I sure do hate to miss church! But, as always, the folks in the SPC congregation do a fine job whether the pastor's there or not. On February 2nd, John Dunn and Aaron Roberts led worship and John gave some history about SPC's longtime involvement in Relay for Life. That tied right in with the lunch and Souper Bowl Snack Sale right after worship, which helped to raise funds for the SPC Friends' team participation in this year's Relay for Life. One of the things that touches me the most about a Sunday like this is there are some who don't mind being "up front", making announcements, preaching, doing the prayers, etc. They may not want to do it EVERY Sunday, but they're happy to lead worship from time to time when it's needed. What a blessing that is to a pastor!

On March 9th, the Session invited Dana Hughes to come and serve as supply preacher. Dana is well-known throughout the Presbytery as a pastor, interim pastor, presbytery committee chair, and former moderator of the presbytery. PLUS she's famous for being a good preacher! Dana is between assignments right now so she's doing a lot of supply preaching, and she's since told me that she's NEVER been to a church where she felt more welcomed and cared for. And she's been to plenty of churches! It was you all who greeted her, made her feel welcomed, showed her around, and in general acted as friend/host and helped her to feel comfortable. And what a blessing THIS is to a pastor, too!

The SPC congregation isn't large in number, but it would be hard to find a group of people more gifted and willing to serve. We are blessed with good teachers of both adults and children, and a wonderful choir. We are blessed with people who know how to fix things and build things; creative people who sew and paint and do all sorts of crafts; folks

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

who know how to arrange flowers and are beautiful decorators; not to mention many, many truly awesome cooks and bakers. We're blessed with organizers and planners and schedulers and recruiters; folks who understand budgets and finance and stewardship of resources; people who come in early to turn on the coffee and always stay late to help clean up. And this is only a partial list! Because there's a whole group of people who may not always do one thing in particular, but will do anything, anytime. They don't care if they stay behind the scenes and no one even knows they did it. This is a congregation filled with people who just want to love and serve God, and one another, and our community.

This morning, with careful instructions from dear Sally Smith, I helped paint 11 Popsicle sticks a bright green – on both sides! They'll be used on one of the crafts for our upcoming bazaar. Am I any good with paint? NO! But it was so much fun to be with Sally and the others who were there, it just didn't matter what I was doing! And maybe that's the secret. The SPC congregation is filled with people who love each other and enjoy being together. A congregation like that can accomplish amazing things for God! And you do. See you in church --

UPCOMING SERMONS

Mar 2	2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 "Simple and Sure"	
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Isaiah 58:1-12 "True Repentance"	
Mar 9	Matthew 4:1-11 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 "Some Things Never Change"	
Mar 16	Genesis 12:1-4 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 "The Power of Belief in God"	
Mar 23	Exodus 17:1-17 Romans 5:1-11 "Learning the Hard Way"	
Mar 30	Mark 2:13-17 1 Samuel 16:1-13 "Father Knows Best"	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

My oldest cousin is in the middle of a big move. He and his pregnant wife (along with their toddler son) are counting the days until their newest child will be born so they can pack their things up and begin their new lives half a country away. Of course, people move to new places every day. People start new jobs and new lives every day. What makes my cousin and his family's move SO STRANGE to me is the direction they're going. Their current home is in San Diego, California, and you can't convince me that there is a city with a better climate in the United States. If you're ever stressed by the near constant 72 degree temperature, the wonderful ocean breeze should calm your frazzled nerves. Where could my cousin move that would be better? The obvious answer is Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Is everyone still with me? I should have warned you to have a lucid partner with you and smelling salts nearby. And yes, you read it right. My cousin and his family are moving (by choice!!) from San Diego to Milwaukee. He is beginning a new job there and they've purchased a home, so their fate is already sealed. Right now, you're probably screaming at this column, "Why? Why? Oh God, why?" The reason is simple and you can't blame them for it. They're moving closer to their family, with my cousin's parents already in Wisconsin and his wife's parents in South Dakota. Although they're going someplace new, their nearby family will make things familiar and comfortable.

They'll be as cozy in their new home as I am when I attend our church. My literal family is here but everyone who isn't technically related to me is still my family. Smiles, hugs and firm handshakes abound every time I arrive at Stockbridge Presbyterian Church. I'm very involved in many ministries at SPC, but I love the people and I love to help out. Other churches might be newer and more spacious, but I couldn't imagine attending anywhere else. San Diego is (definitely) warmer than Milwaukee, but my cousin couldn't imagine living that far from his family. I know he'll be happier with people he loves right around the corner. As for me, I'm looking forward to seeing my church family again very soon.

Aaron Roberts



YOUTH NEWS

Hello to you all,

I hope that you are all doing and feeling well. I sit here this month of Lent and I am wondering what it is I can sacrifice this year...maybe you already know what you will give up.

I have always admired those of you who give up chocolate, caffeine, TV or red meat for 40 days...wow, what will power. I have tried and failed many times to do that. I think it is the whole "CAN'T have it for 40 days" thing that makes me crave it even more. Then one year I was saved...my quite intelligent mother-in-law shared with me this statement. She said "Instead of giving something up, add something. Something that will strengthen your relationship with God and do that every day for 40 days." What a wonderful idea. This year when you are in the midst of your preparation, try and make it something meaningful, something that you can continue on with even after Easter is over. Continue it through out the rest of your life. It may be hard and it may seem impossible because temptation is out there and it seems to be even more powerful when we are trying to do good, but we are all works in progress so if you mess up, miss a day or two, pick yourself back up and continue onward.

Matthew 4: 1-4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

God's peace and blessings with you all,
Stephanie



Youth Events for March 2014

- March 2**~Bowling after church
- March 9**~Lunch and a movie after church.
- March 16**~Fundraiser Luncheon
- March 23**~Preparation for 5th Sunday service
- March 30**~5th Sunday Youth Service

SPY Sponsorship 2014

Dates: June 21-27, 2014 Cost: \$300

Please help support a youth for this summer's mission trip. We will travel to Mobile, Alabama...Government Street Presbyterian Church.

Our youth will spend a week serving God as we help the homeless, visit our old friends at L'arche, participate in boys and girls clubs, and walk in the shoes of the homeless.

You know we work hard on our mission trips and even though we are worn out, we come back renewed in mind and spirit. So if you ask yourself "why or how do they do it year after year?" It's because it is the absolute best kind of worn out we can be. It motivates us to live our lives better and to look at others in a different light. We come to realize how thankful we are for our families, our homes, our community, our church, and that we are blessed every day by the grace of our wonderful God! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

So, If you are interested in joining us, please contact me, ASAP!

Our small church is very blessed to have such a wonderful youth group and our youth group is very blessed to have such amazing support from our church family. Thank you for your continued support.

Stephanie



Happy Birthday to all Youth With March Birthdays!

GRG NEWS & EVENTS

Attention Church Members 50+ Gold Rush Gang March Event

Tuesday, March 11th
Meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 am
Cost: IMAX - \$10
Transportation - \$4 (cash, please)
Lunch on your own

The IMAX is where we go.
Jerusalem is the name of the show.
A fascinating city of biblical history,
It was connected to Christ Jesus destiny.

We're sure you'll enjoy this show;
And hope that you'll plan to go.
Then it's lunch after the show.
Manuel's with great food is where we'll go.

With Jerusalem, Manuel's, and the best of fellowship

This combination will surely put a big smile on your lips!

See Carol Abbott by Sunday, March 2nd to let her know you want to go!

WORSHIP/WITNESS NEWS

Relay For Life

Come and enjoy a delicious Ham Dinner in the fellowship hall on Sunday, March 9th, 2014. All donations will support our "Relay for Life" of Henry County. Cancer has touched each and everyone of us in some way, and this is one way we can help fight it. Working together with God's help, someday we will find a cure. Mark your calendars for a great meal.

Dear Cancer Survivors and Care Givers,

This year our Team is planning to get ALL of you to the track for the Relay for Life. It will be held on Friday May 2nd at Union Grove High School. There will be transportation provided from the church and we will get you back to the church. Need to be at the site by 5:00 that afternoon. Now for the fun stuff:

This team event to fight cancer kicks off at 5:30 with a free dinner for cancer survivors and caregivers catered by Shane's Rib shack. Each survivor is allowed to bring one caregiver, and all must pre-register by March 28 to be guaranteed a t-shirt and by April 25 to attend the dinner. I have the form you will need to fill out so come see me.

After dinner, the first lap of the evening, known as the "Survivors' Lap" officially opens the Relay event.

I believe that once you have experienced a Relay for Life you will come back each year. This is why we relay. Please come join the fun!!!! Hugs, Sherry

SPC will be hosting "The Festival at the Bridge" once again this year. We have scheduled it for **Saturday, October 4th**, to coincide with the City of Stockbridge's Bridgefest. We feel we will have more participation holding it at the same time. If you are a big crafter and need a booth to display your specialties, a 12' x 12' space will be available for \$40.00 each and a few with electricity can be reserved for an additional \$20.00. (\$60.00 total) These are available on a first come, first serve basis. Packets of information are in the Narthex or you can contact Linda Roberts or Sue Scheer for more details.

The Witness Committee will have a booth of all home-made items donated by you the congregation and friends of the church. If you craft on a small basis, make home-made preserves, sew, knit, crochet, or make just about anything, we would so appreciate your donations to include in our booth. The "Bridge Family Basket" team works every third Thursday on items to be included in our sales and welcome all that are interested in helping/learning from each other. No special talents are needed, just a willingness to work together to fund our mission of spreading God's love. We would love to see all of you March 20th at 10:00 AM in the fellowship hall. I promise you will have a good time.

PRAYER CARD MINISTRY

I thought some of you might appreciate hearing about how our Prayer Card Ministry has grown. For the month of February, 90 cards have been mailed to our sick and military. I am so proud that our Elders approved this ministry in 2006 and it has continued to grow and 90 individuals and their families know they are prayed for each month. We continue to receive Thank You cards from some and they really get the fact that our little church cares. Several have bought stamps for this ministry, so we don't have to hit the church with added expenses. If you would like to purchase a book of stamps, you can leave them with Linda in the office - marked Card Ministry - that would be appreciated. All of this to say Thank You so much from those who receive the cards, our Witness Committee, and from me.

Blessings to each of you, Peggy Chase - Prayer Card Ministry

SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS

MARCH SESSION REPORT

Clerk's Report:

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Jim presented the 2013 church Annual Statistical Report, which was reviewed and approved by the Session.

Aaron presented the results of the annual review of the church rolls. The Session approved removing the recommended members from the rolls pending response to letters of notification.

Jim reported the Session minutes for 2013 were reviewed and noted corrections completed.

Jim reminded committees their input for the SPC Annual Report was due January 31st and Susan's February 15th.

No report on the February 2014 Presbytery meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Jason Howard, chair
No issues or recommendations.

Christian Education Committee:

Aaron Roberts, chair
No issues or recommendations.

Fellowship Committee:

John Dunn, chair; Betty Pickren, co-chair.
No issues or recommendations.

Stewardship Committee:

Jim announced that the Stewardship Committee accomplished the annual audit of all books and records relating to the church's finances for 2013. All records and books of the General Operating Fund, Presbyterian Women, Mission, Youth Group, Memorial and Compassion Funds were found to be maintained in good and orderly manner.

Witness Committee:

Sue Scheer, chair; Lee Hart, co-chair.
No issues or recommendations.

Worship Committee:

Arlene Lathrop, chair; Darin Clipper, co-chair.
No issues or recommendations.

Pastor's Report: Susan had no issues or actions to report.

New Business: The Session approved not conducting communion in February due to Susan's absence for several weeks and closing in on communion on March 2, 2014.

Jim Beisner
Clerk of Session

FELLOWSHIP/BUILDING & GRNDS

Every Sunday Morning:

Breakfast is served beginning at **9:00** every Sunday morning. Come and enjoy the fellowship. Use your hospitality and cooking skills to bless others...signups for cooking are on the refrigerator door in the Fellowship Hall.

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 again starting our per capita campaign earlier this year and will provide periodic reminders in order to give you ample time to consider your gift.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

- Mar 2** Aaron Roberts
- Mar 9** Carlton Smith
- Mar 16** Linda Roberts
- Mar 23** Ron Scheer
- Mar 30** John Abbott

ACOLYTE

- Mar 2** Sydney Holloway
- Mar 9** Cydnee Keller
- Mar 16** Ele Roberts
- Mar 23** Alex Seal
- Mar 30** Justin Stanley

LITURGISTS

- Mar 2** John Dunn
- Mar 9** Linda Roberts
- Mar 16** Greg Lathrop
- Mar 23** Cooper Keller
- Mar 30** Laura Richardson

HEAD USHER—MARCH 2014 Fellowship Committee

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- Mar 2** Betsy Sierra
- Mar 9** Wendy Wells
- Mar 16** Tami Pass
- Mar 23** Stephanie Dunn
- Mar 30** Aaron Roberts

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- Mar 2** Aaron Roberts Family
- Mar 9** Clipper Family
- Mar 16** Stephanie Dunn/Diana Taylor
- Mar 23** Wendy & Megan Wells
- Mar 30** Kim Seal/Phyllis Howard

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