

NOVEMBER 2014

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 COMMUNION Time Changes Set Clocks Back. (Lee Hart)	3 12:00 O.A. Meeting 7:00 A.A. Meeting	4 10:00 PW #1 Circle Mtg. 6:00 CE Comm. Mtg. Election Day	5 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	6 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 A.A. Meeting	7	8 1-2:30 Youth Challenge Testing 6:30 Youth @ The Dunn's House
9 VETERANS' DAY SERVICE (Stephanie Dunn)	10 12:00 O.A. Meeting 7:00 A.A. Meeting	11 Veterans Day 12:00 GRG Potluck & Annual Mtg.	12 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:30 Fellowship Comm. Mtg. 6:30 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 BFB/Crafters 5:00 Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 6:30 Bldg & Grnds Comm. Mtg. 7:00 A.A. Meeting	14	15
16 12:00 Congregational Mtg. 12:30 Zachary Smith CD Debut Reception (Allison Johnson)	17 12:00 O.A. Meeting 7:00 A.A. Meeting	18 9:00 Early Risers @ B&B 7:00 Session Mtg.	19 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:30 Witness Comm. Mtg. 6:30 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 A.A. Meeting	21	22 9:00 New Glory Ladies Prayer Breakfast 4:00 New Glory
23 (Aaron Roberts)	24 12:00 O. A. Meeting 7:00 A.A. Meeting	25 9:00 Early Risers @The Plaza	26 7:30 AM A.A. Mtg.	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 7:00 A.A. Meeting	28	29 10:00 Crafters Mtg. 1-4:00 Parents Day Out
Thanksgiving Break - School's Out						
30 1st Sunday of Advent (Cindy Strong)						



- 11/8 Gene Park
- 11/9 Sally Smith
- 11/10 Carrie Keller
- 11/14 E. G. Mani
- 11/14 Diana Taylor
- 11/16 Barbara Anne Bailey
- 11/17 Aaron Roberts
- 11/18 Jim Newsome
- 11/20 Bettye Cochran
- 11/27 Michael Bennett
- 11/27 Justin Palmer
- 11/30 Don Dunlap



SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

From My Heart To Yours

We're taught, and we all know, that scripture can bring us comfort, encouragement, instruction, and inspiration. And of course that's just a partial list! But several weeks ago in the Adult Sunday School class I teach, we were doing a study called, "The Jesus of the Scriptures," and in that study we took a second look at scriptures that also offer something else: SERIOUS CHALLENGE.

In Matthew 5 we read, "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ... Do not resist an evildoer. If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also ... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven ..."

Jesus spoke these words on a mountaintop in Galilee, and they are among the most challenging commandments we face as Christians. I often say, "Christianity is not for sissies." We've been given much, and much is required of us. So when I came across an article in *Sojourners* that's about as honest and realistic as anything you can find, I wanted to share it with you. It's written by Stephen Mattson, and it's called "5 Things You Should Know Before Becoming a Christian."

Few things are represented more inaccurately than Christianity. Often marketed through evangelism as a joyful, peaceful, loving, easy way to overcome the hardships of the world, in reality practicing Christianity is far more grueling than many pastors, theologians, and Christian institutions make it out to be.

Christianity isn't meant to be a form of escapism, a safety net, or a crutch. Rather, following Jesus means bravely sacrificing yourself for the love of humanity, becoming nothing for the sake of others.

Here are 5 things everyone should know about becoming a Christian:

Christ is perfect but Christianity is not. Don't mistake Christian culture for God – they aren't the same thing. Churches, pastors, theologians, and other believers will inevitably fail you but Jesus never will.

It's OK to change your convictions. You'll never have Christianity fully figured out. You won't

have an answer for everything. It's a journey – a "pilgrim's progress." Life, relationships, and experiences form, shape, and change the way you see, experience, and understand God. The disciples didn't understand God much of the time, and you probably won't either.

Christianity isn't easy. It doesn't magically fix things, or make you more popular, wealthy, or healthy. It's not a form of escapism but a lifelong process of dedication, service, sacrifice, and humbly loving others. It's very, very, very hard, and not for the faint of heart.

Christianity is complex. Nobody believes exactly the same thing. There are hundreds of denominations. Doctrines, practices, and traditions are as varied as the people who represent them. And that's OK. The goal of Christianity isn't conformity, but an honest and intimate relationship with God.

Christianity is ultimately about loving God and loving others. It should never be co-opted by a political movement, a religious institution, gaining power, obtaining control, spreading influence, enforcing laws, or becoming rich and famous. It's about a relationship with God. Never let anything become more important than that.

Accepting these 5 realities will help you face the trials and disappointments that will inevitably challenge your faith, and also help you authentically love God and the people around us.

Want to talk more? Let me know! See you in church – Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

- NOV 2 Psalm 106:1-6, 47-48
Matthew 22:1-14
"The Wedding Robe"
- NOV 9 Veterans' Day Service
2 Chronicles 16:1-10
Psalm 46
"Christ, the Solid Rock"
- NOV 16 Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
"Planning for the Future"
- NOV 23 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25:31-46
"Our God of Justice"
- NOV 30 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37
"Remembering to Remember"



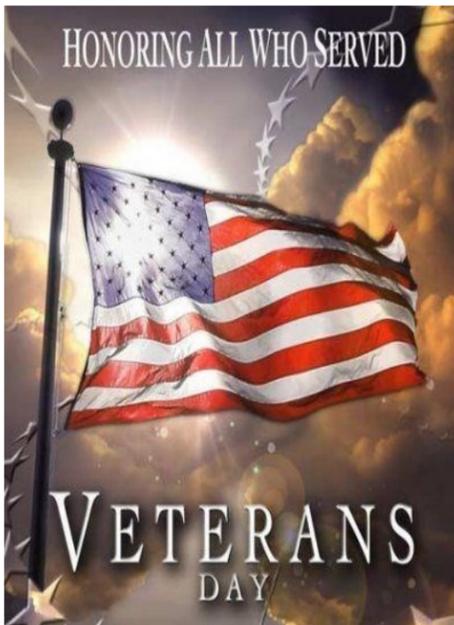
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
 We turn our hearts to you on this day for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts.
 For each one, we are grateful.
 For each one, we are blessed.
 For each one we are opened to the abundance of your love.
 May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous with others, as you are with us.
 We praise you.
 We rejoice in you.
 We give you thanks.
 Amen.



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PARENTS' DAY OUT

Two dates have been scheduled for a Parents' Day Out. The dates are November 29th & December 20th from 1-4:00 PM. Childcare is being provided on these two dates 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,

Well, it is officially here, the start of the holiday season. Typically, I love this time of year, but after my mom passed away last May, I have to admit, I've been dreading it. This was her favorite time of the year. So with that said, I've been trying to figure out how to live through this first holiday season without her.

My thoughts are to embrace the beauty of the season, and to be even more thankful for the gifts in my life. I realized that I really do need help with this. Some days it seems that nothing more can go wrong; cars breaking down, accidents happening, finances dragging me down. But then I'm sitting in my chair at home with my 20 year old daughter sitting snuggled up with me. My husband comes in from his job and smiles when he sees us. It's in those small moments that I realize that I'm really rich and my cup runneth over.

Most of us want the BIG things out of life and forget what we have. Family, friends, cats, dogs, and even our jobs are the BIG things. I'm so thankful for the life God has put before me. I'm so thankful for Jesus Christ and for his love for little ole me. It's still hard to comprehend the depth of that love, but I'm so thankful for it.

I'll work through this season with the help and love of my family. I'll miss my mom and I'll shed some more tears, but I'm thankful that I was blessed with her love throughout my life. And I pray that each one of you will stop and look at your blessings, no matter how small they may seem, and be thankful for them being in your life.

Have a wonderful thanksgiving.
 Love to you all,
 Stephanie



YOUTH EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- Nov 2: Movies**
- Nov 8: (Saturday) 6:30 at the Dunn's House.**
- Nov 9: No Youth**
- Nov 16: Soup kitchen**
- Nov 23 & 30: No youth**

GRG NEWS & EVENTS

Attention Members of the Church (50 yrs. +)
 Gold Rush Gang - November 2014 Event
 Annual Potluck Luncheon & Meeting
 Tuesday, November 11, 2014 @ 12:00 Noon
 Church Fellowship Hall

When I woke up yesterday, it was July,
 The sun was shining in that summer sky.
 What happened that time went so fast?
 The hands on the clock just went on past.

Now the skies are a little gray,
 And there is shortness to the day.
 Summer is gone, Autumn is here,
 And that means the annual meeting of the
 Gold Rush Gang is here.

Bring your best recipe cooked dish,
 With so much good food there, you'll really wish,
 That you could eat so much more,
 Before you walk out the church fellowship door.

While you're there digesting your food,
 Get into the voting mood.
 Plan to vote for those you hold dear,
 To guide us through another exciting year.

We hope you'll be there to participate,
 So, get out your calendar and mark this date!

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 located
 in the Narthex.



WORSHIP/WITNESS NEWS

Card Ministry and Christmas box for Soldiers

Please look over the list in the Sunday bulletin under our Military and if you turned in one of these names & addresses, please check to make sure the address has not changed, or their military time is up and they are now back at home. We enjoy sending them a gift for Christmas, but they are returned if they are not at the address on package. If you can get a correct address to me by November 9th, we will be able to get a small package and/or Christmas cards to them. Blessings and prayers for our Military.
 Peggy Chase

Good News In Time For Christmas!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 16th.** Immediately following our worship service, the first edition of Zachary Smith's CD will go on sale in the fellowship hall.

A reception of punch & cookies will be served, while we have the opportunity to congratulate Zach. A portion of the \$10.00 cost of each CD will go to our mission programs.

Thank you Zach for a job well done!

Live Nativity

Once again, we are planning to celebrate the birth of Jesus through a "Live Nativity", and we need help from each of you. There is something for every one to do.

A sign up sheet will be in the narthex the first Sunday in November so the different coordinators can get in touch with you. I know Christmas is one of the busiest seasons for every one, but I guarantee the love of Jesus Christ will be felt at this event, and want all of you to experience it.

Characters: Angels and Shepherds, all ages, all sizes to participate in the event.

Artists: Designing posters for the local merchants advertising the event.

Refreshment donations: Cookies, candies, muffins and beverage ingredients

Fellowship Hall: Help decorate.

Greeters: Adults to welcome and escort visitors during their visit.

Costumes: Adults to help with dressing Characters in costumes and packing costumes away when done.

Refreshment and kitchen helpers:

Clean up helpers for the fellowship hall and the outside stage area after the event.

Make your calendars: Saturday, December 13th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM.

CHOIR

YOUR CHRISTMAS STORIES NEEDED

Do you have a great Christmas story that you would like to share on our Dec. 14th Christmas music program? If so, please email wardgaleyii@gmail.com. I am looking for some brief but memorable family Christmas stories which we will build our music around.

SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Clerk's Report: 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 alerted committee chairs to start their event planning for 2015. Items for the 2015 Activities Calendar will be due the end of November 2014 in order for the Session to approve the calendar at the December Stated meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

A request from Alisa Newsome to allow a Girl Scout troop to use the Church every other Thursday for Scout meetings was rejected due to probable disruption of the AA group meeting on every Thursday.

The Session approved a request by Arlene Lathrop to allow the AA group to have additional meetings on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM.

The Session approved a Church work day scheduled for September 27, 2014 from 9am to 12am.

Christian Education Committee: The Session approved the fall Stockbridge Presbyterian Youth activities.

Fellowship Committee: John had no issues or recommendations.

Stewardship Committee: The Session reviewed the August 2014 financial statement.

Witness Committee: The Session approved holding the community flu shot evening for Moye's Pharmacy in Mary Thompson's old office on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

The Session approved Betsy Sierra applying for a \$5,000 P.A.T.H. Grant for the GNG program.

Worship Committee: The Session approved Michael Thompson (from Columbia Seminary) to preach on 9/21/14 for Theological Education/Seminary Sunday.

The Session approved Celebrate the Gifts of Men Sunday October 19, 2014. Tom Francis will be preaching.

Pastor's Report: Susan had no report.

New Business: The Session approved the 2015 Stockbridge Presbyterian Church budget.

The Session discussed recommendations for members to participate in the church security and safety planning task force. The following members will be task force members: Gerald Taylor, Doug Richardson, Jason Howard, John Dunn, Kim Seal, Greg Lathrop and Linda Roberts (Alternate).

The Session discussed the research Zach

SESSION CONT

Smith completed regarding licensing costs for his proposed CD. The Session approved the purchase of the requested licenses and selling the CDs for \$10.00.

Susan, Sue, and Betty volunteered to attend the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center training session entitled Healthy Sessions-Health Churches. Tami Pass will be asked by Arlene.

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 second half of the year and will provide periodic reminders in order to give you ample time to consider your gift.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

- Nov 2 Linda Roberts
- Nov 9 Arlene Lathrop
- Nov 16 Linda Roberts
- Nov 23 Ron Scheer
- Nov 30 Allison Johnson

ACOLYTE

- Nov 2 Lexie Buchan
- Nov 9 Syndey Holloway
- Nov 16 Breana Huggins
- Nov 23 Isabella Newsome
- Nov 30 Alex Seal

LITURGISTS

- Nov 2 Lee Hart
- Nov 9 Stephanie Dunn
- Nov 16 Allison Johnson
- Nov 23 Aaron Roberts
- Nov 30 Cindy Strong

HEAD USHER - NOVEMBER 2014

Witness Committee

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- Nov 2 Stephanie Dunn
- Nov 9 Aaron Roberts
- Nov 16 Sue Scheer
- Nov 23 Tami Pass
- Nov 30 Betsy Sierra

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- Nov 2 Greg Lathrop/Bryan Wharton
- Nov 9 The Clipper Family
- Nov 16 Stephanie Dunn/Diana Taylor
- Nov 23 The Roberts Family
- Nov 30 Allie Dunn/Nancy Bryant

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