

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

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MAY 2015



The Church At The Bridge

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett,

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 12:30-1:30 PM Confirmation Class (Sue Scheer)	4 12:00 - OA Mtg. 7:00 - AA Mtg.	5 10:00 - PW #1 Circle Mtg. 7:00 - Boy Scouts	6 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:00 - G&G 6:00 - PW#2 Circle Mtg. 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00 - Women's Bible Study 7:00 - AA Mtg.	8	9 1 - 2:30 Youth Challenge Testing
10 Gifts of Women Service Happy Mother's Day! (John Dunn)	11 12:00 - OA Mtg. 7:00 - AA Mtg.	12 9:00 - GRG -Noah's Ark 7:00 - Boy Scouts	13 7:30 AM - A.A. Mtg. 5:00 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00 - BFB/Crafts 5:00 - Resources Mtg. 7:00 - AA Mtg.	15	16
17 12:15 - Witness Mtg. 12:30 - 1:30 PM Confirmation Class (Allison Johnson)	18 12:00 - OA Mtg. 7:00 - AA Mtg.	19 9:00 - Early Risers @ CFA 9:00 - 12:45 PM Presbytery Meeting 7:00 - Stated Session Mtg. 7:00 - Boy Scouts	20 7:30 AM - AA Mtg. 5:00 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	21 SPC17th Annual Golf Tournament 7:00 - AA Mtg.	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 12:15 - CE/Worship Mtg. (Stephanie Dunn)	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 12:00 - OA Mtg. 7:00 - AA Mtg.	26 9:00 - Early Risers @ The Plaza 7:00 - Boy Scouts	27 7:30 AM - AA Mtg. 5:00 - G&G 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00 - Women's Bible Study 7:00 - AA Mtg.	29 Last Day Of School	30 4:00 New Glory
31 Memorial Day Svc. (Carol Abbott)						

SPC SPOTLIGHT

From my heart to yours...

In Mark 5, Jesus is approached by a man named Jairus, whose daughter is very ill – so ill that this syna-gogue leader is desperate enough to beg the radical heretic to come and heal her. They are met along the road by people who are saying, in effect, “Jairus, your daughter’s already dead. Forget it.” At that point Jesus sends away the crowds and all his disciples except Peter, James, and John. When they get to the house, the professional mourners are already at work, wailing and weeping. Then Jesus sends EVERYONE away from him, and goes into the house alone. He takes the girl’s hand. He tells her to get up, and she does. She’s completely healed.

Sometimes, you can’t let people get you down ... Jesus knew what God wanted to do in this situation. His job was to be obedient to what God was telling him, and to do that, he needed to remove himself from negativity and discouragement. There’s hardly anything that drains the life and joy out of a person, or a situation, more quickly than complaining and negativity. Jesus needed to be able to focus on God, and not be dragged down by people who were so negative, so sure they were right, that they actually laughed at him when he stayed focused on healing Jairus’ daughter.

Every church, every group, always has its share of negative people. They complain; the glass is always half-empty; “we’ve tried that before and it doesn’t work”. A friend once told me (and many of us!), “Some people wouldn’t be happy in heaven!” And she was right. So in spite of the fact that everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, constant complainers and negative people can bring folks down and distract all of us from focusing on the positive: what God has called us to do, and the ways God has blessed us so we can obey him and worship and serve him with joy.

For instance ... thanks to a very generous donor and the efforts of the SPC Resources Committee, every bathroom in this church has been remodeled and modernized and made beautiful. This is something we can all be thankful for! And we now have a huge, handsome cabinet in Fellowship Hall that will display our mementos and trophies. Windows were replaced and baby-changing stations installed. Even the baby bathroom in the nursery has been updated. Every one of us is incredibly blessed to be on the receiving end of such generosity.

For instance ... we have fewer elders on Session right now, but every single one is deeply committed and working hard as they serve God by serving others. Activities and events are happening as they always do: Relay for Life, the Golf Tournament, VBS, the Youth Mission Trip, and others. God has blessed us with a Session whose members love and respect each other and work well together. This is a strong Session, and we need to remember to thank God for these folks and pray for them daily.

Hebrews 10 says, *Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hmmm ... that sounds like a good church! Let’s each of us do our part to help make that happen. If you’re in a situation where people are complaining and being negative, move on! As a friend of mine says, “I look around for the happy people, and then I go and talk to them.” There is so much to be thankful for. Let’s work together for peace and unity. Complaining and division make the devil smile. Let’s be careful not to give him ANYTHING to be happy about! Instead, let’s love each other and give thanks for our dear church and its strong mission.

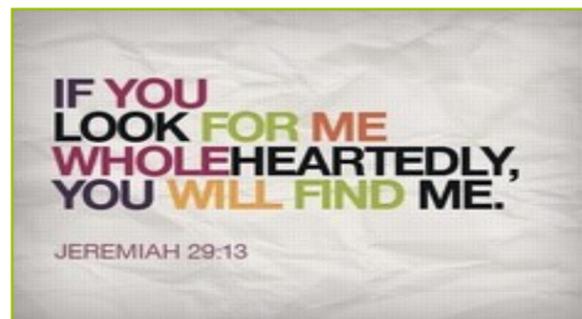
Much love to you all. See you in church –  
 Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

- MAY 3 John 15:1-8; Acts 8:26-40  
“Going It Alone”
- MAY 10 Celebrate The Gifts of Women  
Kaitlyn Clipper, Guest Preacher
- MAY 17 Psalm 1; John 17:6-19  
“Aren’t We Special!”
- MAY 24 Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-2; Romans 8:22-27  
“Birth. And Life”
- MAY 31 Memorial Day Service  
All-Music Sunday



- May 1 Kirubanity Mani
- May 10 Susanna Sierra
- May 11 Brad Pass
- May 12 Susan Bennett
- May 14 Lynne Bailey
- May 17 Justin Stanley
- May 22 Terry Holmes
- May 26 Peggy Beisner
- May 26 Stephanie Phillips
- May 26 Laura Richardson
- May 30 Verline Copenny
- May 31 Kingsley Mani
- May 31 Melissa Schroer
- May 31 Mabel White



**EDUCATION/WORSHIP**

Vacation Bible School is June 8 through June 11 (4 Days Only!) this year. I know you're already excited, but there's more. We will have it from 5:15 pm to 7:45 pm and that includes a dinner in our fellowship hall each night. Can't wait until it starts? You're not alone. I'm thrilled too.

I hope everyone will be there. If not for the food, then to learn yourself, because adults will have bible study each night too. VBS isn't JUST about the kids this summer. Don't just push aside the opportunity for time with other adults. Come with your minds and Bibles open.

We wanted to relax things, so no one will have to drag themselves in to church for any early mornings (it is summer, after all). All you have to do is look forward to a tasty and fun dinner with your church friends each night and then some leisurely time to focus on and get closer to Jesus. If the weather permits, we'll be using the pavilion a lot too. We're trying hard to put the "Vacation" back in VBS.

Look for the sign up sheets in your church bulletins. If you've got questions, ask me or the wonderful Linda Roberts. Sign up yourself, your friends, your kids, AND your friends' kids. Preparations are underway, and I'm preparing to see EVERYONE there. It's gonna be fun. Aaron Roberts



**GRG NEWS & EVENTS**

**Attention: Church Members 50+ Gold Rush May Event - Tuesday, May 12th Lunch at the French Market (on your own) Noah's Ark Animal Refuge Tour Transportation: \$2.00 per person (cash, please) Meet at the Church Parking Lot @ 10:30 am**

Lions and tigers and a bear, oh yes!  
A ewe, snakes, a pheasant or two,  
What else you might see,  
You never know, I haven't got a clue!  
Animals are there.  
It's a refuge for all of them  
Who need help and care.  
Exotic and domestic animals is what you'll see.  
I'm sure it'll be an adventure,  
That will please you and me!  
Don't worry about the amount of walking,  
We'll all be able to ride and enjoy talking!  
Before the tour we'll eat.  
The French Market will be a real treat.  
So lets all meet, eat, and tour.  
This will all be exciting and  
fun, of that you can be sure!

Please let Jo Price know that you if you plan to go by Sunday, May 10th.  
P.S. If you have any old towels you would like to get rid of, please bring them with you. Noah's Ark use them to dry the animals.

**YOUTH NEWS**

Hello to All, Happy May!

The month of May means it is time to celebrate Mother's Day. So I want to say Happy Mother's Day to all the official mothers out there and to all the women who may not have their own children, but take care of so many with that gentle-firm mother love. This year I'll be celebrating Mother's Day without my mom here with me but, I know that I have so much of her inside me, and the love she gave me all my life is in my heart. I love you mom. May also means it's the end of another school year which also means graduation. I want to say CONGRATULATIONS to my/our graduating seniors: Maegan Seal from Union Grove, Savannah Sewell and Mitchell Stanley both graduating from Woodland. (If I've left anyone out, please let me know) Most of us have watched them grow up...Maegan from a baby, Savannah from a little older, and Mitchell for the last few years. All three are beautiful/handsome, talented, smart, and very funny young adults. I am so proud to have been a part of their life. I will keep them in my thoughts and prayers, always. Now, go out there and rule the world!!!

**Best song for this time of year...**

**Good Riddance by Green Day**

*Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road. Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go. So make the best of this test and don't ask why. It's not a question but a lesson learned in time.*

*It's something unpredictable but in the end is right. I hope you had the time of your life*

*So take the photographs and still frames in your mind. Hang it on a shelf in good health and good time.*

*Tattoos of memories and dead skin on trial. For what it's worth, it was worth all the while*

*It's something unpredictable but in the end is right. I hope you had the time of your life.*

*It's something unpredictable but in the end is right.*

Love to you all,  
Stephanie

**I hope you had the time of your life!**

**OUR MISSION TRIP GROUP**



**SPY MISSION TRIP**

We will be heading to Kentucky this year for our youth mission trip. The Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church's

**MISSION IMMERSION PROJECT  
Lexington, Kentucky**

Dates: June 20th - 26th

Mission Trip Cost: \$300.00 per person, but any amount you can contribute would be very much appreciated.

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church is committed to identifying and addressing the needs of those whom Jesus called "the least of these." Toward that end we are involved with a number of social ministries that exist in the community and are constantly at work on creative solutions to the problems that plague the poor throughout the U.S. The Mission Immersion Project also accomplishes the goal of helping youth understand the plight facing those who are poor in America. The week-long experience combines education with implementation. Groups not only hear and discuss social injustices, but work hands-on through mission. Our hope is to instill a desire in the youth to return home and begin or join similar areas of ministry. With hard work comes play, so free time is built into the schedule. Maxwell Street is located on the edge of the University of Kentucky. Basketball courts, a park, and swimming pools are in the neighborhood. One afternoon and evening are set aside for groups to choose a day outing.

**What is a SPY SPONSOR'S responsibility?**

Love, support, and pray for the youth group.

**What you get for your sponsorship:**

- ⇒ A nice lunch after church on July 12th that will be served by our youth group.
- ⇒ A very thankful and grateful youth.
- ⇒ Knowledge that you are helping a youth make a change in the world and possibly changing a youth's life forever.

**YOUTH EVENTS IN MAY**

- May 3 No Youth
- May 9 (Saturday) Bon Fire at the Dunns 6:30 - 9:30 PM
- May 17 Youth Meeting after church
- May 24 No Youth (Memorial Day Weekend)



Confirmation Classes for children 12 and older will be held May 3rd and May 17th from 12:30 - 1:30 PM, with confirmands joining the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. Please let Susan know asap if you would like to participate.

**WORSHIP**

**A WORD FROM WARD**

I want to talk to you about our church choir. It is listed every Sunday to the far right of the current anthem selection as the Sanctuary Choir which is a very common and useful title. We are a dedicated bunch, devoted to enhancing worship with music, which Martin Luther said was right below Word and Sacrament in importance. I think of all our songs as prayers, and what is more important to a church than worship, prayers?

All over, small church choirs of the traditional variety such as ours are struggling. The median age of choristers is getting higher and it is not being so readily replenished as of olden days, I lament. There just seems to be too much going on in our world today that distracts folks from live participation anymore. Ironically, when we do, we feel better because there still is nothing better than good old live fellowship. Just think of how you felt leaving church last Sunday, or say, last Good Friday or Easter. I thought it was quite amazing.

More and more, people leave the church, and often the choir by a more singular route: death. I noticed this at my former church in Conyers. When a person left the choir, it was usually because they left for Heaven. I remember a number of funerals, because I usually spoke at them, sang, or both. Jack White is our most recent memory.

So I am asking for your help. The other day, a lady told me she heard a wonderful voice behind her in church. By all means, please help to identify these folks and let me know. Better still, come visit choir practice on Wednesday evening at 7:00 and/or 10:30 Sunday morning, and see/hear. Choir membership is strictly voluntary. You do not have to be able to read music. Let us teach you. We are not an elitist group. And, it's fun.

**THE BIRTH OF THE HYMN - "PRECIOUS LORD"**

Back in 1932, I was a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go; Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie goodbye, clattered downstairs to our Model A, and in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66. However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back.

I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music. The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope...Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: Your wife just died.

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was "Nettie is dead, Nettie is dead."

When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend. The following Saturday evening he took me up to

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**SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

**Clerk's Report:** The Session received a thank you letter from the American Cancer Society for its contribution of \$101.45.

Rev. Bennett reported receiving a letter of Transfer of Membership from Sherry McGee to Kelly Presbyterian.

The Consent Agenda was approved for March.

**Resources Committee:**

The Session approved a request for free assessments from various security companies to assess the needs of our church

March 2015 financial statements were reviewed.

**Witness Committee:**

The Session approved to have a Luncheon following services, Sunday 4/12/15 as a fund raiser for "Relay for Life 2015, Henry County".

The Session approved additional fund-raising options that may be approved by the committee including but not limited to the purchase of "footprints" to be displayed in the Narthex, and coin cups for donations to benefit "Relay for Life 2015, Henry County".

The Session approved to spend \$610 to purchase book vouchers to donate to the GNG children to be used at their 2015 school book fair.

**Worship and Education Committee:**

The Session approved to administer the Sacrament of Baptism for Allison Fuqua, daughter of Elizabeth (Sierra) and Joe Fuqua, Sunday, April 5, 2015.

**Pastor's Report:** Susan presented an article called "The Tyranny of Trivia" for open discussion.

**New Business:**

Darin Clipper requested an additional \$75.00 be approved to the previously approval of \$300.00 for a larger container to be used for the discarded items during the church wide work day April 18, 2015. Motion was made and seconded for the approval.

Darin also informed the Session a cabinet was being made to hold any mementos to be saved in recognition of church gifts. It will be placed in the fellowship hall.

Aaron Roberts will address any church nursery needs, or replacements to assure safety conditions with Stephanie Phillips and report back to the Session.

**The Birth of the Hymn (continued)**

Maloney's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows.

I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody. Once in my head they just seemed to fall into place: "Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn, through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

Tommy Dorsey

For those too young to know who he is, Tommy Dorsey was a well-known band leader in the 1930's and 40's. Did you know that Tommy Dorsey wrote this song? I surely didn't. What a wonderful story of how God CAN heal the brokenhearted! Beautiful, isn't it?

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?**



This year's Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11 from 5:15 to 7:45 in the evening. Dinner will be served from 5:15-5:45 with Bible School to follow. The theme will be "Wilderness Escape - Where God Guides and Provides". Participants (Kindergarten through 5th grade) will be divided into the different tribes of Israel for singing, crafts, and Bible stories. And, there will also be an adult program with pertinent and timely discussions.

We will need individuals who are willing to help with all aspects of VBS. Please use the registration/volunteer insert in your Sunday bulletin to sign up.

If you need more information and/or would like to volunteer to help, please contact one of the following individuals.

Aaron Roberts @ arob12001@gmail.com or Linda Roberts @ lsr1273@gmail.com

Come and be a part of this Bible adventure!

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**BEADLE**

- May 3 John Dunn
- May 10 Arlene Lathrop
- May 17 Jim Beisner
- May 24 Annie Laura Kelly
- May 31 Carlton Smith

**ACOLYTE**

- May 3 Lexie Buchan
- May 10 Sydney Holloway
- May 17 Breana Huggins
- May 24 Isabella Newsome
- May 31 Alex Seal

**LITURGISTS**

- May 3 Sue Scheer
- May 10 John Dunn
- May 17 Allison Johnson
- May 24 TBD
- May 31 Carol Abbott

**HEAD USHER - May 2015  
Betty Pickren - Witness Committee**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

- May 3 John Dunn
- May 10 Betsy Sierra
- May 17 Stephanie Dunn
- May 24 Wendy Wells
- May 31 Aaron Roberts

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS**

- May 3 Diana Taylor
- May 10 Tami Pass/Alisa Newsome
- May 17 The Clipper Family
- May 24 The Roberts Family
- May 31 Kim Seal/Phyllis Howard