

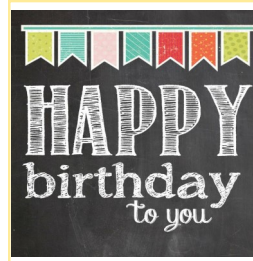
Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

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AUGUST 2016

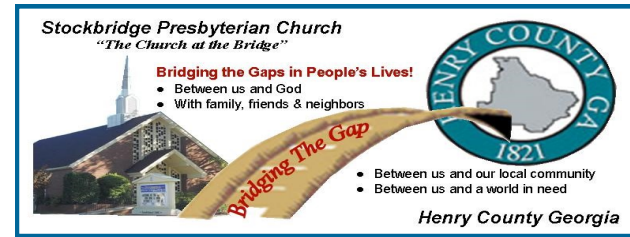


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 First Day of School 7:00 AA Mtg.	2 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 6:00 Worship/CE Mtg.	4 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study Resumes 7:00 AA Mtg.	5	6
7 COMMUNION 12:00 Congregation Mtg. 6:00 Youth Mtg. (Aaron Roberts)	8 7:00 AA Mtg.	9 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal Resumes	11 10:00 Bridge Family Baskets 5:30 Resources Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	12 7:00 Girl Scouts	13
14 6:00 Youth Mtg. (Terry Holmes)	15 7:00 AA Mtg.	16 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Stated Session Mtg.	17 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	19 7:00 Girl Scouts	20 9 - 2:00 Presbytery Meeting
21 12:00 Healing Service 12:15 Witness Mtg. 6:00 Youth Mtg. (Sue Scheer)	22 7:00 AA Mtg.	23 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	26 7:00 Girl Scouts	27
28 12:15 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 6:00 Youth Mtg. (Linda Roberts)	29 7:00 AA Mtg.	30 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			



- Aug 4 Matt Holcombe
- Aug 4 Cooper Keller
- Aug 5 Edna Fisher
- Aug 6 Jo Linda Ingram
- Aug 6 Cindy Mott
- Aug 10 Monica Baxter
- Aug 12 Ken Roberts
- Aug 15 Sarah McQuade
- Aug 19 Janna Szeto

- Aug 21 Johnnie Shumate
- Aug 23 Sophie Szeto
- Aug 24 Elle Roberts
- Aug 29 Gerald Taylor



The Church At The Bridge

Here's a book title you're going to be hearing a lot about: Sailboat Church, by Joan S. Gray. The Session was first introduced to this book in October of 2015, when we went as a group for elder training led by Joan Gray, Camille Josey, and our old friend Joy Fisher. We listened to Joan and the other teachers, read the book, and began to see how its message could be used by the Spirit in SPC. Immediate excitement!

Part of the excitement came from the day itself. The teaching and experiences of that day touched the heart of every elder who attended – which is why Joan's coming here for our all-church retreat on November 12th. The Session wants EVERYONE to hear the same truths and begin to pray about SPC and each person's part in it.

One of the first things we learned is that prayer must be foundational to everything about this church – honest prayer that begins with a real relationship with Jesus. How does this look in real life? Well, first, each Session member is using the same devotional material and partners check in with each other every day to talk about the day's reading. (Email counts!)

Second, the Session now meets twice a month – one Sunday a month after worship we meet and have lunch, study, and pray. We use readings from the devotionals and later we study a chapter of Sailboat Church. There's lots of discussion and challenge – we're all working on going deeper with God and planning for SPC's future. (By the way, this second meeting was NOT my idea! The elders came up with this on their own.) On the third Tuesday we have our regular stated meeting. It always includes a time of worship and Bible study, and then the business of the church is shared, discussed, and prayed about. We're moving more slowly than ever – it's great! Because each question, each proposal is prayed about and talked about. More than once we've tabled an issue to give each of us another month to pray about it. ALL WE WANT – is for the Holy Spirit to be in charge, to hear God's voice clearly, to follow in the direction God wants us to go. I have to tell you, it's all pretty amazing.

So I said all that to say ... the Session voted unanimously to create an outreach at Pine Hills Mobile Home Community on Davis Road. This was after the idea had been hashed out in the Worship/C.E. Committee for several months, and after the Session tabled the discussion once to take another month to pray. The plan is that on four Saturday afternoons in October – 8, 15, 22, 29 – a group of us will go to Pine Hills, bring lunch, have games and crafts for the kids, meet grownups who come, get to know people, and have activities for anyone who wants to participate. The single most important thing about this outreach

SPC SPOTLIGHT

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

is that we're THERE, bringing God's love and care and help. We're loving our neighbor. We're demonstrating God's love and care. There are no expectations. This isn't an exercise designed to increase our membership. It's simply a response to Jesus' commandment to go into all the world – in this case, our neighbor, about a mile down Davis Road.

This is the answer to the question, "What would Jesus do?" And we know this because when we read the gospels, this is what we see him doing. And we also know this because we believe the Spirit has made his will clear to the Session of SPC.

The Session truly believes that if you'll be part of this outreach, you'll be glad you did. We know this is outside our "comfort zone." But isn't that what discipleship is all about? There'll be those who will go to Pine Hills every Saturday to meet people and get to know them. But even if you're not one of those folks, you can write notes, prepare food, come up with games and crafts, gather supplies, make donations, and lots of other things. And no matter what else you do, please pray. We're learning more every day that there's just nothing more important.

Let us know what you think! Get in touch with Sue Scheer, Aaron Roberts, or me. Any one of us would love to answer questions and provide details and just talk it over. This isn't a project for just a few people – this is something the whole congregation needs to take part in. And the same thing will happen that always happens when we all get together – it'll be fun! Come and be part of it all –

Much love to each of you!

Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

- Aug 7 Psalm 50:1-15
Luke 12:32-40
"Is Today the Day?"
- Aug 14 James 1:2-4
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
"You Don't Always Get What You Want"
- Aug 21 Glory Cumbow, Youth Director
Guest Preacher
- Aug 28 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
"Angels Unaware"



YOUTH NEWS

Hey SPC family!

I am so excited to be serving you all and the youth group! It has been a delight getting to meet you all in worship. Please bear with me as I remember names! I'm very eager to get the youth group moving so that we can have fun together through fellowship and Bible study.

I would like to tell you a little about myself so that you can get to know me a little bit better. I am from Bristol, TN where I attended King College. I received my Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and Theatre with a minor in Youth Ministry. I am married to Andy Cumbow who is serving as the choir director at Westminster Presbyterian in Snellville. We live in Decatur where I am a student at Columbia Theological Seminary. I am earning a Master's of Divinity and a Master's of Arts in Practical Theology. I have a variety of experience in youth ministry, including church and non-profit experience. I care about local and worldwide missions, and I hope to have the youth focus on that. I love the arts (theatre, music, poetry, painting, dance, etc.), traveling, and reading. I hope to use all of my education, experience, passions, and interests to glorify God and bring justice, peace, and love.

We will begin meeting from 6-7:30 on Sunday nights starting on August 7 with our back-to-school kickoff party! Youth in 6th grade-12th grade are invited to attend. We will have food and games! We will also be planning some events, so bring your calendars so that we may plan accordingly.

Young adult group will begin meeting on the second Sunday of each month beginning in September. We will meet for lunch and have a discussion topic. This group is for those who have graduated high school ages 18-23.

I send out weekly emails to keep everyone in the loop. If you have not been receiving emails for youth/young adult events and would like to start receiving them, please email me at glorieac@gmail.com. I am most responsive to email, so please feel free to email me with questions! Once again, I am thrilled to be here serving you all and getting to know everyone.

Blessings,
Glory Cumbow

Sailboat Retreat

So many exciting things are happening in our church. We don't want anyone to be left out of the wonderful feeling of the Holy Spirit's work. Be sure to mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 12, 2016** for our spiritual sailing adventure. There is not an expiration date on our responsibility to follow God's commands, only a graduation date to our reward. Make your reservations now! It wouldn't be the same without you.

WORSHIP/CE

Mark Your Calendars

Remember when you were a kid, and you started counting the days until Christmas way before anyone else gave it a thought?

Well, we want to get you that excited about upcoming events here at SPC. So mark your calendars for the 12th of November and also Saturdays the month of October.

Your session had the privilege of attending a special meeting of spiritual renewal several months ago, which lead us to an in depth study of prayer and being more aware of the power of the Holy Spirit and His presence in our lives.

We want to share this experience with each of you in a church wide retreat. **November 12th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.** We pray each of you will attend and help our church over flow with the love given to us by our Lord and Savior. The well known author and pastor Joan Gray will lead this event. For the next few months we will be having a "Minute for Mission" during Sunday services with more details, and ways you can help make this a success.

These studies have also led us to an outreach mission right here in our own backyard. So we are researching ways to follow Jesus' command to "Tend My Sheep". A trailer park, housing approximately 30 children and numerous elderly residents, has been brought to our attention as needing Bible classes and fellowship days. We are making decisions and gathering feedback to see if this is a project we here at SPC could be involved in. We would furnish a light dinner or lunch, crafts, and a Bible lesson for all. This project would require everyone's help and participation. We at SPC have always felt more alive in the Spirit of God, when we are helping others. We feel this ministry would help open our hearts to the Holy Spirit at our church retreat November 12, 2016. More information will be available as approvals and plans continue. Our request for now is that you will pray for a willingness to be led by the Spirit to share your time and gifts with both your church family and the community.

Relay for Life 2016 Total \$1,610 - Our goal was \$1,000

Thanks to all of you who donated to this year's Relay for Life event. We couldn't have done it without you! And a special thanks to all of you who came to support our SPC Friends Team at Hampton High School. Even though it was held indoors due to the threat of inclement weather, we had a blast! Our SPC Friends campsite offered "create a sock puppet" as our fundraising event. This was a big hit not only with the younger children, but with the parents, too!

Stay tuned as Relay for Life 2017 information.
Faithfully yours,
Arlene Lathrop (Team Captain, SPC Friends)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Teacher Appreciation Celebration

Sunday, August 28th has been designated as Teacher Appreciation Day here at SPC. Did you know that each and every one of you is a teacher in the sight of your church family? So make plans to bring and share your favorite covered dish and join the celebration. We not only want to thank our Sunday School teachers, our Children's Church teachers, our PW teachers, our Bible Study teachers, our Nursery teachers, our Children's Sermon teachers, but the entire congregation for all you do to "train up" our children and adults. Thoughts, words, and deeds do not go unnoticed. Please contact Sue Scheer or Aaron Roberts with any questions.

SPC Annual Yard Sale

Be sure and save **Saturday, September 10, 2016** for the SPC annual Huge Yard Sale! Clean out your attic, closets, drawers, and garage for items that can be donated to the sale and used to support SPC local missions -- money put to very good use. Arlene Lathrop, Yard Sale Coordinator, is looking for folks to receive donations with her on Friday afternoon and evening, September 9, and also people who'd like to work a 2-hour shift during the sale itself. And of course there's a lovely Bake Sale! Plus, all workers receive a voucher for a FREE pancake breakfast that day as our Boy Scout Troop 65 will be in Fellowship Hall cooking for and serving us and the community. For large donations, please contact Gene Ingram for help, and, as usual, no clothes, please. Come and be part of it all! Contact Arlene with questions and to volunteer.

Pine Hill Outreach

Last month we mentioned a new project on the horizon for our SPC family. We are excited to say, it has been approved by the Session, and work will begin on planning a once a week, four week program for children, their families, and seniors at Pine Hills Mobile Home Park. It will be held Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM during the month of October. The success of this mission will depend on help from each of you. We at SPC have been so blessed, through no act of our own, and we must share our talents and gifts with those less fortunate. More details, in addition to forming committees will be coming soon. So as you are contacted, please say "Yes"! We promise the feeling of joy and peace you will receive from volunteering will be a gift to you from the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR



A WORD FROM WARD

As I write this column, we are in the middle of our annual July hiatus, but it won't last for long. I have just returned from vacation and I was more than ready to return. That's because I love what I do. It's fun, and I'll keep doing it until it isn't, which is probably never.

We were blessed this past year by a wonderful Christmas program which included some classical masterworks and some popular pieces. Many were accompanied by an exceptional, professional string quartet known as the Decatur Strings. We also reversed the earlier trend of losing of choir members by adding three wonderful new singers in Sondra Martin, Jackie Griffith, and Jacob Ingram. (Did I leave anyone out? Please forgive me if I did.)

Our children continued to sing each quarter and we also had an all music Sunday quarterly, as well. This is always fun and gives the congregation a chance to sing their favorite hymns and it gives the choir a chance to sing their favorites too.

We heard new solo singing from Sondra Martin on "Precious Lord." Brooklyn Allen and Monica Andrea Baxter also sang, along with Monica Andrea multi-tasking on both piano and violin! The children joined the Sanctuary Choir on Christmas and Easter. By the time you read this, Jeffrey Cochran will have also blessed us with a wonderful text by Langston Hughes.

I certainly won't fail to mention the addition of our wonderful new organist, Dorothy Clark. Dorothy created our bell choir which will resume in September. Yes, we still need some more ringers! If you have had a modicum of music readership training of any kind, please talk to her.

We mourned the demise of at least two of our sister churches, but even with the loss of Rehobeth, they left us some gifts in choral music, music stands, an electronic piano, a snare drum (played recently by Matt Holcombe), and a practice organ. Thanks to Susan for helping us get the handbells from the Presbytery.

Speaking of music readership, no one is required to be a music reader to be in choir, although it can help. Nevertheless, I am inquiring whether anyone would like to learn how to read music or enhance their skills in a very easy and self-paced manner? I have a method called Tonal Solutions which employs sequential worksheets of which I have permanent permission to copy and distribute at no cost. Please let me know if you are interested. It would require an occasion individual or group lesson arranged to fit your schedule! (Perfect in this day and age.) I can even send the sheets to you via email! Please let me know if you are interested. It would not conflict with any other church activity.

Sanctuary Choir resumes Wednesday night, August 10, at 7 p.m. Come visit!.

SESSION MINUTES

Clerk's Report:

The Session received a note from Tom Francis thanking the Session for the Visa gift card in recognition of his time as church custodian. The Session received a letter from the Presbyterian Historical Society asking for our consideration to join their organization.

The Consent Agenda was approved for June.

Jim let the Session know he will miss the July Stated Session meeting.

Resources Committee:

The Session approved George Stanford's ashes to be spread in the Prayer Garden.

The Session approved a memorial memorabilia for George Stanford in the prayer garden, a 4-foot bench with plaque, donated by the Stanford family.

The Session approved the Boy Scouts using the Fellowship Hall on July 16, 2016 from 6-9 p.m. for Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor

May 2016 financial statements.

Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Worship & Christian Education Committee:

The Session approved Carly Keller as Guest Preacher on July 24, 2016.

The Session approved purchase of two Praise Banners at \$49.00 each from the Memorial Fund.

Pastor's Report:

Susan announced a second nursery attendant has been hired. Susan asked the Session to start praying about the elder nominating process as this year is critical in seeking Session members.

New Business:

Resource Committee presented the salary of the new Youth Director Glory Cumbow for approval. Glory will be paid \$18.00 per hour for up to 15 hours per week. The Session approved the salary.

Worship-CE Committee presented a plan to conduct an outreach ministry in the Pine Hill trailer park off Davis Road. The Session decided to discuss and pray and vote on the outreach project at the July stated meeting.

The session approved moving the trash cans to the back of the Education Building and moved to Burke Street on Sunday for Monday morning pick up.

Called Meeting:

June 5, 2016

Rev. Bennett stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Jesus Calling" and Chapter 7 in "Sailboat Church".

Lee selected the June 5 reading in "Jesus Calling" and discussed the impact of Jesus' words on her. Further discussion by members of the Session followed.

Susan led a discussion on Chapter 7 of "Sailboat Church" in which Session members described passages they felt important. The remainder of Chapter 7 will be discussed during the June 21, 2016 stated Session meeting in place of worship.



In the past 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 2016 by providing a gift of \$22.00 per SPC member. Thank you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

Aug 7 Aaron Roberts
Aug 14 Terry Holmes
Aug 21 Tracey Clipper
Aug 28 Gene Ingram

ACOLYTE

Aug 7 Lexie Buchan
Aug 14 Sydney Holloway
Aug 21 Breanna Huggins
Aug 28 Isabella Newsome

LITURGISTS

Aug 7 Aaron Roberts
Aug 14 Terry Holmes
Aug 21 Sue Scheer
Aug 28 Linda Roberts

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Aug 7 John Dunn
Aug 14 Aaron Roberts
Aug 21 Tami Pass
Aug 28 Sue Scheer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

Aug 7 Greg Lathrop
Aug 14 The Roberts Family
Aug 21 Cathy & Jerry Rasar
Aug 28 TBD