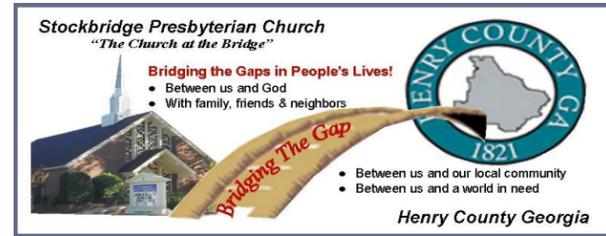




Volume 16 Issue 1



Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 Girl Scouts	2
3 Epiphany Sunday Communion (Jim Beisner)	4 12:00 OA Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	5 12:00 PW#1 Circle Mtg. 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 PW#2 Circle Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	8 7:00 Girl Scouts	9
10 (Terry Holmes)	11 12:00 OA Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	12 9:00 Early Risers 5:00 Resources Comm. 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00 BFB 7:00 AA Mtg.	15 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Elder Training	16 9:00 Elder Training
17 11:00 Ordination & Installation of Elders 12:15 Witness Comm. (Laura Richardson)	18 12:00 OA Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	19 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Stated Session Mtg.	20 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	22 7:00 Girl Scouts	23
24 (Sue Scheer)	25 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	26 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	29 7:00 Girl Scouts	30
31 12:15 New Member Luncheon (Greg Lathrop)						

SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

Do you remember years ago when folks were worried that computers everywhere would explode and life as we knew it would be over when we reached the year 2000? Surprise! Here we are in 2016, still going strong. And in this new year, there'll be some changes that the Session would like you to know about.

First, we're delighted and grateful to report that Jim Beisner will continue for one more year as Clerk of Session. I think he had retirement plans that included more traveling and less clerking, but he's very graciously agreed to serve for another year. He'll be working closely with Sue Scheer, who will again be serving as Assistant Clerk. A great team!

We'll keep our 3 same committees: Resources, Witness, and Worship/C.E. Resources will again be co-chaired by Darin Clipper and Kim Seal, who served together very effectively last year. This committee handles the physical plant and the whole SPC campus, along with everything financial – budget, expenditures, payroll, offerings, church rolls, and all record-keeping. Resources also functions as our Personnel Committee.

Within the Resources Committee and Stockbridge Presbyterian itself, there's a BIG change coming that affects all of us. For over 30 years, Doug Scott has served as SPC's Treasurer. It's hard to imagine anyone more faithful or committed – where would the church have been without him all these years? Doug has handled contributions, the budget, the monthly financial reports, and much more – and done it all with no fanfare, just quiet efficiency (and perfect confidentiality.) When Doug began to talk about retirement several months ago, I don't think anyone actually believed him at first! But it turns out he was serious, and the Resources Committee and Session have accepted his retirement, with many, many thanks for his years of faithful service. And as usual when a good person retires, it's going to take 2 people to replace him!

Session voted to contact an accounting firm that specializes in churches and clergy situations, and Doug and members of Resources met with them for the first time on December 8. They are creating a new system of accounting for us and also conducting an audit, in compliance with state and federal law and the PC(USA) Book of Order. It's a big deal! Linda Hodges, our Office Manager, will receive training to serve as bookkeeper (adding that to her list of current responsibilities.) This means Linda will work Monday – Thursday from 9:00 – 3:00, adding an hour to her schedule each day. The accountants recommended that Kim Seal move from Assistant Treasurer to the oversight position of Treasurer/CFO, which Session approved at their December meeting. There's a lot to learn and we're all kind of breathless right now, but we have faith that even with Doug retiring, the work will go on. So even though it's hard to imagine life without Doug as SPC Treasurer, he's more than earned a rest and the freedom to spend more time with Joan and their family. An opportunity to thank him formally is in the works! We'll let you know the date asap.

In other Session news, Gene Ingram has been elected and

will be ordained and installed on January 17th. Gene and JoLinda have been active locally and nationally with the Boy Scouts and are seasoned, capable volunteers, but Gene is new to a PC(USA) Session and rarin' to go. Arlene Lathrop has graciously signed on for another 3 years and she, Gene, and Lee Hart will serve as co-chairs of the Witness Committee. That's a powerful combination!

And guess what! Sue Scheer is coming back on Session and will serve with Aaron Roberts, co-chairing the Worship/C.E. Committee. We're excited and grateful to welcome Sue to Session again, but she's promised us only 1 year as she completes Betty Pickren's term. (Betty says she's moving. Could she really do that to all the folks here who adore her? Well, the pull of grandkids is a strong one ... we'll see!) So of course we're hoping and praying that Sue will stay longer than one year – but we're trying to be polite about it. It's so embarrassing when a whole bunch of people are hanging on to your ankles and begging you to stay! The combination of Sue and Aaron is a strong one – two high-energy, creative people with lots of good ideas. We're excited to see what happens next!

And other changes ... after a long life, the Gold Rush Gang has decided to dissolve their organized group and just stay friends, getting together for meals and social events when they can. This is a big change for SPC! After more than 14 years of leadership, John and Carol Abbott resigned from their position and again, it's hard to be mad at them about that, isn't it? They've done an excellent job for a long, long time, and they deserve a little rest!

And what stays the same around here? Wonderful worship and music, strong and fruitful neighborhood outreach, and the best group of people anywhere. And even in the midst of change, Hebrews tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We have nothing to fear, and every good reason to stay together and continue serving him. God bless you all as we move together into 2016. Much love to each of you – Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

JAN 3	EPIPHANY SUNDAY Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 "His Star at Its Rising"	
JAN 10	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 "What's Baptism Got to Do with It?"	
JAN 17	Psalms 36:5-10 John 2:1-11 "The Promise of Abundance"	
JAN 24	Guest Preacher	
JAN 31	All-Music Sunday	



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan 1 Lola Hankerson | Jan 20 Suzie Wharton |
| Jan 3 Marie-Anne Baxter | Jan 25 Brad Richardson |
| Jan 3 Mitchell Stanley | Jan 26 Chris Groce |
| Jan 8 Justin Wells | Jan 26 Bob Strong |
| Jan 10 Alex Seal | Jan 28 Marshall Hembree |
| Jan 11 Peggy Chase | |
| Jan 14 Denese Rodgers | |
| Jan 16 Betsy Sierra | |
| Jan 17 Greg Lathrop | |



YOUTH NEWS

Hello to all,

Happy New Year! I'm hoping you all had a wonderful Christmas! I enjoyed having all my children at my house for Christmas breakfast, even though I wasn't feeling well. I was sick with the crud that day, so I feel like I need a do over.

Our youth had a good time Christmas caroling this year. We went to a few of our members homes and then Savannah suggested we go to her neighbors house. You see the mother had just started her chemo treatments. So, we asked if we could and they opened their home to us. There were 4 of them and they stood there and listened and sang with us. What that meant to me I can never explain. I'm praying that we left a little 'light' behind when we left. Thank you Lord. Ok.... On with 2016.

Love to all,
Stephanie

JANUARY Youth Events

This month's events are in the works. Check out the insert and I'll be in touch with you this month.



Super Bowl Snack Sale
Sunday, February 7, 2016
@ 12:15 is our annual "Super" bowl snack sale. Come and get your party snacks here. All proceeds will go to an outreach program like G&G or Joseph's pantry.



SPC HAPPENINGS



NEW MEMBERS' LUNCHEON FOR FOLKS WHO JOINED SPC IN 2015
Sunday, January 31st @ 12:15 PM
In the Fellowship Hall



SAVE THE DATE

Relay For Life of Henry County
Friday, April 22, 2016 @ 7 p.m.
Hampton High School
795 Hampton Locust Grove Rd, Hampton, GA



Goodness & Groceries

Come and join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We continue to partner with Smith Barnes Elementary, Cotton Indian Elementary, Stockbridge Middle School, and Food Depot to provide food for students who need it over the weekends. This is such a blessing to these families, and the schools wanted me to relay their appreciation to all of you. This will begin the third year of this ministry which keeps children in our community from being hungry on the weekends. Come help us as we pack groceries, write notes of encouragement, load bins of groceries into cars, and enjoy each other's company.



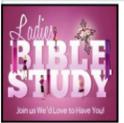
Prayer Group Meeting Times For January

Thursday, January 7, 2016 @ 9:00 AM
and
Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 6:00 PM

Please join us for one or both prayer groups.



18TH SPC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Thursday, May 19, 2016
Little Mountain Golf Course



The Women's Bible Study group meet on the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM in the conference room.

WITNESS

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the BFB's first annual "Advent Sale" a huge success. The baked goods were delicious, the crafts adorable, the prayers made everything possible and those of you who purchased the merchandise added to this success. Through your participation we were able to apply \$607.00 to the Joseph Pantry fund. The support of our church family is amazing when supporting our mission programs, and I want to thank each of you personally. You have taken Jesus' command to "Feed and Tend My Sheep" to heart.

The BFB team also made fruit and goodie baskets for our homebound family members. On December 10th, we delivered the baskets and visited with the following:

Ann Watson, who is doing wonderfully, and is right at home at The Benton House. She looks great, has many friends, and acted as an adoptive grandmother to one of our local schools for Christmas. She misses her SPC family and would love for all to visit.

Georgia Silvey is back to her old self after her recent hospital stay. She rolls her wheel chair all around Laurel Park and enjoys visiting with all the friends she has made. She plays Bingo regularly and loves a good conversation. She would love to see her SPC family anytime.

We were fortunate to be able to visit with Mabel Craig at Laurel Park. She seemed to be settling in, and looked and felt good. She missed her faithful dog "Henry", but had had a visit from him and was expecting another real soon. Unfortunately that same evening, Mabel was admitted to the hospital with phenomena. Our Lord and Savior called her home on Sunday, December 13th. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to visit with her, letting her know she was in our thoughts and prayers and missed was dearly by her SPC family.

Johnny Hinton has had some ups and downs over the past few months, but continues to keep a positive attitude. Both he and his wife, Tesa, really enjoy company and catching up on the going and coming of their SPC family.

Sara Belle Lee is always ready for a good visit. Her famous quote to visit again so the conversation can get farther than first base is truly how she feels. She has a wonderful attitude and a memory for everything that has ever happened at SPC. She would love to see each of you, but be sure to call to make sure she will be home. She goes, and goes, and goes.

As you can see, our home bound family members would love to see you. They are so appreciative that they are still remembered, and still in our prayers, our thoughts, and our hearts.

God bless each of you.
Sue Scheer

WORSHIP



Word from Ward

Earlier this Fall, I made a continuous appeal for help from the congregation for volunteers to assist our choir in singing our successful Christmas program on Dec 20. Here's a shout out of thanks to the two lovely ladies who responded: Jackie Griffith and Novette Scott.

I had been informed by a number of you that there were some strong singers in our congregation. We especially needed more assistance to pull off our ambitious Christmas music service last month. Those of you who made the recommendation were correct. Any more suggestions are coveted.

2015 was a tough year for our choir ranks. We lost two long-standing members to eternity, and another moved their membership. How do you replace such strong contributors?

Some have said that Wednesday night is a bad night. Okay. There is nothing sacred about a Wednesday night practice! We can change it. Any suggestions? I'm retired, so I'm willing to practice most any time. We even practiced a lot on Friday afternoon for the Christmas music.

Times are definitely changing, and we must too, in order to maintain our programs. Will you help us?



Handbell Choir Starting!

Have you always wished you could be a part of the music ministry at SPC but you sing like a frog? Did you play a band instrument when you were a kid or take a few piano lessons? Well, here is an opportunity for you to serve the Lord and your church with those abilities ... or lack thereof!

As you may remember, Presbytery gave us an old set of Schulmerich handbells; and then you hired me as your organist. Well, I am an absolute handbell freak! Love 'em! It has been my joy to start handbell ministries at Blackfeet United Methodist Church in Browning, MT; Westminster Presbyterian Church in Atlanta; and my home church of Columbia Presbyterian Church in Decatur; as well as continue a handbell ministry at University Heights United Methodist Church in Decatur. Now I am looking forward to helping you learn to play our new bells!

If you are able to read music, even a little bit, and can commit to each week's rehearsal, you have all it takes to be a handbell ringer. Shoot

SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Clerk's Report:

The Session received a letter from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta establishing our per capita for 2016 and suggesting the amount of our operational support to the presbytery.

Jim distributed an overture passed at the Presbytery. Jim asked the session members to study the overture and be prepared to discuss at the December stated meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved for November.

Jim reminded committee chairs that input for the 2015 Annual Report are due by January 15, 2016.

The Session approved the 2016 Activities Calendar.

Resources Committee:

No issues or recommendations. October 2015 financial statements were reviewed.

Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Worship and Education Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Pastor's Report:

Susan did not have anything to report.

New Business:

The Session approved allowing the Southeast Cluster Pastor's Group to meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday 12/15/15 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Session approved supporting a dinner for homeless of Henry County on November 21, 2015 by having our youth participate in serving the meal and donating canned food and frozen turkeys.

The Session approved Susan to form two prayer groups with one to meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 and the second time TBD. The group will pray for our church.

The Session approved creating a Christmas Basket Task Force to coordinate the 2015 Christmas Basket effort.

(Handbell Choir con't)

me an email if you have any questions about anything: dec721@bellsouth.net
Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., right before choir, and will last 45 minutes. The first rehearsal is January 13 in our choir room. Please come that evening, even if you aren't sure whether you want to commit or not. Get acquainted with our beautiful bells, and see what ringing is all about. Find out if you would like to be a member of Dorothy's Ding-a-lings!

FELLOWSHIP



Every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM a delicious breakfast is served in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful time of fellowship. Please consider signing up to prepare a breakfast one Sunday. The sign up sheet is located on the refrigerator in the fellowship hall.



Circle #1 meets the 1st Tuesday @ 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall, September - June
**Remember to bring a sack lunch.
Circle #2 meets 1st Wednesday @ 6:00 PM in Parlor, September - June



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

- Jan 3 John Dunn
- Jan 10 Terry Holmes
- Jan 17 Sue Scheer
- Jan 24 Judy Simmons
- Jan 31 Laura Richardson

ACOLYTE

- Jan 3 Lorren Huggins
- Jan 10 Collin Roberts
- Jan 17 Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter
- Jan 24 Elora Newsome
- Jan 31 Aubrey & Miranda Morrow

LITURGISTS

- Jan 3 Jim Beisner
- Jan 10 Terry Holmes
- Jan 17 Laura Richardson
- Jan 24 Sue Scheer
- Jan 31 Greg Lathrup

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- Jan 3 John Dunn
- Jan 10 Betsy Sierra
- Jan 17 Stephanie Dunn
- Jan 24 Aaron Roberts
- Jan 31 Tami Pass

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- Jan 3 Stephanie Dunn, Diana Taylor
- Jan 10 Zina Forsyth
- Jan 17 The Clipper Family
- Jan 24 Tami Pass, Alisa Newsome
- Jan 31 Kim Seal, Phyllis Howard