

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

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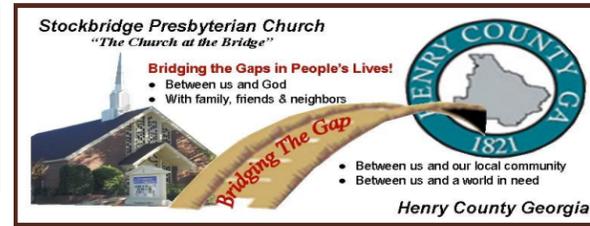
# SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 AA Mtg.	2 7:00 Girl Scouts	3
4 No Youth Meeting  (Cooper Keller)	5 7:00 AA Mtg.  Labor Day (Office Closed)	6 12:00 PW #1 Circle 6:00 Worship/CE Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G Resumes 6:00 PW #2 Circle 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00 Bridge Family Baskets 5:30 Resources Meeting 7:00 AA Mtg.	9 7:00 Girl Scouts	10 8-11:30 Boy Scouts Pancake Brkfst. 8-2:00 SPC Annual Yard Sale
11 12:00 Young Adults 6:00 Youth Meeting  (Jeffrey Cochran)	12 7:00 AA Mtg.	13 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	16 7:00 Girl Scouts	17
18 12:00 Annual Budget Meeting No Youth Meeting  (Stephanie Dunn)	19 7:00 AA Mtg.	20 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Stated Session Meeting	21 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	23 7:00 Girl Scouts	24
<b>FALL BREAK - SCHOOL'S OUT</b>						
25 6:00 Youth Meeting  (Carolyn Francis)	26 7:00 AA Mtg.	27 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00 AA Mtg.	30 7:00 Girl Scouts	



- Sep 3 Terence Ojong
- Sep 4 Tami Pass
- Sep 4 Bryan Wharton
- Sep 6 Richard Maccombie
- Sep 6 Linda Roberts
- Sep 11 Matt Howard
- Sep 11 Vivian Maccombie
- Sep 12 Sue Scheer
- Sep 13 Ron Scheer
- Sep 13 Linda White

- Sep 14 Tom Francis
- Sep 21 Alisa Newsome
- Sep 22 Valerie Atong
- Sep 24 Michael Bailey
- Sep 26 Noah Clipper
- Sep 26 Jason Stanley
- Sep 29 Sarah Moseley
- Sep 30 Gene Ingram
- Sep 30 Chris Mott
- Sep 30 Cathy Wegner



# SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

*From My Heart to Yours* I first met PC(USA) pastor, author, and former General Assembly Moderator Joan Gray in July 1993, when I showed up at Columbia Seminary to begin Greek School. (Greek School may be seminary's version of boot camp: you leave your home, your job, your people, and your life to come to Decatur, GA and immerse yourself in ancient Greek, sometimes wondering if you've just made the worst mistake of your whole life!) Joan was then senior pastor at Columbia Pres, just down the street from the seminary, and, like many students, that church was where I started out.

Joan can preach, teach, write, and communicate, plus she's a certified Spiritual Director. Plus she's just a down-to-earth, kind and gentle person, very likable and fun to know. Her passion is the church, the Body of Christ. And from 1993 till now, her bottom-line message to the church hasn't changed: In order to know God, in order to serve him, we must study scripture and pray. A lot. It's just crucially important that we know God's heart, and God's will. As Jesus tells his disciples: "Without me, you can do nothing."

Studying Joan's book, *Sailboat Church*, is helping the Session better understand and practice intentional prayer to hear God and follow his will. It's my hope that eventually, everyone in the congregation will have also read the book and completed the 40-day prayer/scripture study it includes. It really is life-giving! In the meantime, it's time to pray!

There are as many different ways to pray as there are people who want to pray. I'm sure by now you and God have spent lots of time together! I want to offer you a little encouragement, however, that may help you pray specifically for SPC and the outreach ministries the Session believes we're called to be part of. Here's one prayer that I pray daily (maybe not word-for-word, but pretty close):

*Gracious God, I'm so thankful for Stockbridge Presbyterian and for the many good and wonderful people who call this their church home. I pray that for each of them, Jesus Christ would be the foundation of their life: Savior, God, Father, Spirit. Help each person to rest secure upon that Rock and find comfort and purpose in your presence. And for the church itself, SPC as the Body of Christ, I ask that you may be the foundation and the center of every moment of worship, service, and fellowship. Let EVERYTHING said and*

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

*done here bring glory to you and joy to your heart. I pray that each of us could learn to listen to and hear your Spirit, so that we may be always in your will. I ask that the SPC Session be guided directly by your Spirit in all planning, decisions, and direction. Session and congregation alike, we're grateful to be called as ministers in your world, and we pray that you would lead us closely, so that we may hear your voice and move in the direction where we can serve you best. Let each person, each committee, and the church as a whole be filled with your Spirit and be obedient to your leading. We know that you call all your children to mission and service; let us do everything you want us to do, and nothing you don't want us to do.*

*And Lord, as we live our lives and keep you close in our hearts, fill us so fully with your Spirit that our families, our co-workers, every person you send across our path, sees and experiences your love and grace, even through the imperfect vessels that we are. In the midst of life's problems and hassles, we ask that you'd fill our hearts with joy and help others to receive your joy, too. We love you and we thank you. Amen.*

By the way, just for the record, it's perfectly okay to read your prayers to God! As the next few weeks go by, look for more prayers in the announcement sheet and in the next newsletter. And feel free to join in – send me a prayer you've written where you pray for SPC and its missions and people, and we'll publish that one for folks to have, too! Above all, just PRAY. God wants to hear from us, and staying close to him brings us only joy and good things. Much love to all of you! See you in church -- Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

- Sep 4 Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24  
Luke 14:25-33  
"Counting the Cost"
- Sep 11 Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
"The Foremost Sinner"
- Sep 18 1 Timothy 2:1-6  
Luke 16:1-13  
"Choices"
- Sep 25 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
Luke 16:19-31  
"Lazarus and the Rich Man"



**YOUTH NEWS**

Hello SPC,  
Happy September! Fall is in the air and the youth group is cooking up some fun events. We have been learning about Jonah and trying to build our numbers. Now is the time to join us! We meet Sunday nights at 6pm until 7:30. We talk, share stories and laughs, and have a Bible lesson. So if you are a youth or young adult (or know of a youth or young adult to send our way) this group is for you! I know the youth here are very smart and talented people, which means that there is school work, clubs, sports, music, etc. that they're dedicated to. But it's very important that we work our schedules around this time set apart for fellowship and for God. Now that school has been in session a few weeks, it's time to be present for youth so that we can accomplish the goals that we have set together. If you're interested in coming and joining us, here is our schedule for September:  
**Sunday September 4- NO YOUTH!** No meeting due to Labor Day.

**Sunday September 11-** We WILL meet at 6pm in the fellowship hall! We will be finishing our study on Jonah.

**Sunday September 18-** NO YOUTH! No meeting due to fall break.

**Sunday September 25-** We WILL meet at 6 for a movie night! More details to come.

I send out a weekly email which includes a devotion, a brief "catch up" for those who missed youth to know what we discussed, and any details of upcoming youth meetings and events. If you would like to be part of this mailing list (or know of a youth or young adult who would like to be on the list) then please email me at gloryeac@gmail.com.

I'm looking forward to seeing more and more smiling faces in our youth group meetings! We have some great things planned for events and Bible studies, so I don't want anyone to miss out! The Holy Spirit is here with us ready to excite us, challenge us, and strengthen us. I am really enjoying my experience here at SPC thus far. Thank you for welcoming me and making my job here so wonderful.

Blessings,  
Glory Cumbow



Circle #1 meets the 1st Tuesday @ 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall  
Circle #2 meets 1st Wednesday @ 6:00 PM in the Parlor, September - June

**WORSHIP/CE**

The plans, committees, and donations for our new "Pine Hills Outreach" program are going wonderfully, thanks to the positive attitudes of all of you. Every one contacted has been more than willing to do whatever they are asked. It is very evident the Holy Spirit is hard at work in each of us.

This is a new experience for us. We are swimming in unfamiliar waters, but that is where our trust and faith come in. Jesus tells us, "Take my hand".

If by chance you have not been contacted by someone on one of the many committees, don't think you have been missed. We still have lots of things to do, needing lots of help. So your phones will be ringing soon.

God has blessed our church family with blessings and gifts to share, and I am so proud to be part of this family. So let us continue to pray for the success of our new adventure with open hands to accept whatever God brings our way.

**Save the Date!**

*Sailboat Church  
Helping Our Church  
Rethink Its Mission and Practice*



**Saturday, November 12, 2016  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**COLORS OF LOVE**

The sky turned white on that fateful day.  
The white heat fireballs blasted our two buildings away.  
The earth turned red with the victims precious blood  
And the firemen and police had to sift through the muck and mud.

Our hearts felt blue seeing that tragic event,  
That satan's evil demons had sent.  
We were down, we were almost out,  
But then we lifted our heads and looked about.  
We lifted our eyes to the heaven's above

And there, through the dark clouds,  
Was still shining God's love!  
We remember the words,  
"Lo, I am with you always."  
And though there was great  
Sorrow and gloom through the day,  
We knew the promise true,  
God loves me and God loves you!  
So wave Old Glory, lift high the  
Red, White, and Blue  
For God will give us strength  
To see our way through!

Carolyn Francis

**WITNESS**



**Goodness & Groceries Ministry**

Our Goodness and Groceries Ministry will resume on **Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 5:00 PM.** We are continuing our partnership with Food Depot, Cotton Indian Elementary, Smith Barnes Elementary, and Stockbridge Middle School to insure no child goes hungry on the weekends. And now we're also partnering with Dutchtown Middle School! If you are looking for a way to serve God by serving others, please join us in the Fellowship Hall.



**SPC Annual Yard Sale  
Saturday, September 10, 2016  
8:00 - 2:00 PM**

Our Yard Sale is Saturday, September 10, 2016. Please drop off your donations here at the church on Friday evening, September 9th. For large donations, contact Gene Ingram for help, and, as usual, no clothes, please. All volunteers receive a coupon for a FREE pancake breakfast (courtesy of the Boy Scouts) Come and be part of it all! Contact Arlene Lathrop (770) 362-9082 with questions and to volunteer.



Troop 65 Pancake Breakfast  
(Pancakes, Bacon, OJ, Coffee)  
Cost - \$5.00  
Saturday, September 10, 2016  
Serving from 8:00 until 11:30 AM



*Per Capita Offering*  
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.

**CHOIR**

**A WORD FROM WARD**

With school already having started, this is the unofficial beginning of the year. In music this means the bells and choir will have resumed and plans have already been made for Christmas music. We will always need bell ringers and singers, and this is the very best time to try us out. Choir has been back since August 10 and the bells start September 7. Choir requires no music readership skills while bells require a modicum of it. That's where the new music readership class could be helpful.

I have already met with Glory Cumbow and heartily agree with her approach. I look forward to working with her. I want to set up some youth singing and playing asap.

We already have one volunteer to take our music reading class! If you are interested, I can email you the free, self-paced lessons. Why not give it a try?

*Handbells*

Handbell Rehearsals resume on **Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 p.m.**, right before choir practice in the choir room, and will last 45 minutes. Any questions please see Dorothy Clark, or email her at dec721@bellsouth.net. Please come and check us out!

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

On **Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** the 1st Christian Church of Stockbridge will be hosting the annual community church-wide praise and worship service. As followers of Jesus Christ, we come together for a wonderful time singing praises to our Lord and an uplifting message. Refreshments will follow immediately in the fellowship hall. Everyone is requested to bring finger foods. Drinks will be provided. No RSVP required! Their address is:  
102 Valley Hill Road, Stockbridge, GA

*Women's Bible Study*

The Women's Bible Study group meets on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. in the conference room. Please join us!

**SESSION/STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

**Clerk's Report:**

No communications were received.

The Consent Agenda was approved for July.

Performance Appraisals: A reminder to all committee chairs having staff members, that appraisals must be done prior to the called meeting scheduled for August 14, 2016, at which time the Session will review, for presentation at the Budget Meeting, September 18, 2016.

Committee Budgets & Budget Meeting: All committee chairs should have their committees review and update their budgets prior to the Budget Meeting, September 18, 2016, when they will be submitted.

**Resources Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Witness Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Worship & Christian Education Committee:**

The Session approved a Youth Meeting/Dinner, July 24, 2016 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

The Session approved a Sharing Tree to be placed in the Narthex.

The Session approved disbursement of Camp Calvin Fund.

The Session approved the baptism of Channah Daniels, daughter of Chantal and Chris Daniels, 8/28/16

The Session approved Glory Cumbow, Youth Director, as guest speaker Sunday 8/21/16.

**Pastor's Report:**

Susan discussed the importance of each committee having regular committee meetings. This is not only for informational purposes but building relationships. She distributed a list of all church members and their phone number for each chair to contact each member and invite them to join one of the committees offered.

**Old Business:**

Worship/CE Committee presented an update of information pertaining to the Pine Hills Outreach project. (Attachment III) Times were changed to 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM, in addition to the programs being held on Saturdays. Rev. Susan Bennett reported she had contacted the Stockbridge Police Department with security questions. She was advised that other churches from the area had done similar programs, with no incidents. It was suggested by the Police that she call the non-emergency 911 number to let them know each Saturday we would be in the area as a precaution only. After a discussion from the Session, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Plans will begin.

The Resources Committee presented a new report being implemented for the church financial reports. (Attachment IV) It was well received by Session, with suggestions for additional information columns. Follow up will continue by the committee.

**New Business:**

The floor was open for volunteers to chair the

Elder Nominating Committee for the 2017 elders. Kim Seal and Sue Scheer will co-chair this committee, contacting the necessary church members to join. A slate of nominees will be presented for approval to the congregation November 6, 2016.

**Called Meetings:**

July 17, 2016

Rev. Bennett stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Jesus Calling" and Chapter 8 in "Sailboat Church".

Gene Ingram selected the July 13th and 15th reading in "Jesus Calling" and discussed the impact of Jesus' words on him. Further discussion by members of the Session followed.

**New Business:**

A request from Tom and Carolyn Francis to use the fellowship hall 7/23/16 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM for a family anniversary party was received. They will handle all clean up and securing of the church.

A motion was made, seconded, then unanimously approved.

A decision was made to have a brief moment of congregational praise testimonial prior to services beginning August 7, 2016 in addition to a minute for mission regarding the church retreat "Sailboat Church".

Rev. Bennett led a discussion of Chapter 8 of "Jesus Calling" had fallen behind. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to use "Our Daily Bread" booklets as an alternative. Beginning Monday, 7/18/16, partners will share their ideas on daily readings of "Our Daily Bread".

Rev. Bennett led a discussion of Chapter 8 of "Sailboat Church" in which Session members described passages they felt important. The remainder of Chapter 8 will be discussed during the July 19, 2016 stated Session meeting in place of worship.

The next scheduled called Session meeting will be Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 12:30 PM.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**BEADLE**

Sep 4 Cooper Keller  
Sep 11 TBD  
Sep 18 Stephanie Dunn  
Sep 25 Carolyn Francis

**ACOLYTE**

Sep 4 Marie Anne LaFaye Coutin-Baxter  
Sep 11 TBD  
Sep 18 Elle Roberts  
Sep 25 Collin Roberts

**LITURGISTS**

Sep 4 Cooper Keller  
Sep 11 Jeffrey Cochran  
Sep 18 Stephanie Dunn  
Sep 25 Carolyn Francis

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Sep 4 Glory Cumbow  
Sep 11 Betsy Sierra  
Sep 18 Stephanie Dunn  
Sep 25 Aaron Roberts

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS**

Sep 4 Diana Taylor  
Sep 11 The Clipper Family  
Sep 18 Tami Pass/Alisa Newsome  
Sep 25 Kim Seal/Phyllis Howard