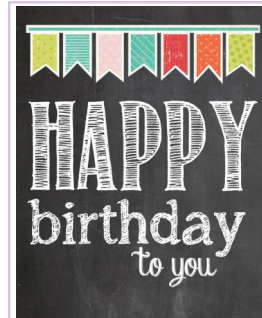




FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 AM AA Meeting 5:00 G&G 6:00 PW#2 Circle Mtg. 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Meeting	3 7:00 Girl Scouts	4
5 12:15 Youth Meeting (Jim Beisner)	6 7:00 AA Mtg.	7 12:00 PW#1 Circle Mtg. 6:30 Discipleship Mtg. 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 Bridge Family Baskets 5:30 Resources Meeting 7:00 AA Mtg.	10 7:00 Girl Scouts	11
12 12:15 Sweetheart Lunch (Jeffrey Cochran)	13 7:00 AA Mtg.	14 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts VALENTINE'S DAY	15 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	17 7:00 Girl Scouts	18
19 12:15 Witness Meeting 12:15 Youth Meeting (Aaron Roberts)	20 7:00 AA Mtg.	21 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Stated Session Mtg. 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	24 7:00 Girl Scouts	25
26 12:15 Youth Meeting (Lee Hart)	27 7:00 AA Mtg.	28 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	WINTER BREAK - SCHOOL'S OUT			



- Feb 4 Jean Bunker
- Feb 4 Sydney Clipper
- Feb 6 Arlene Lathrop
- Feb 6 Maegan Seal
- Feb 13 Jason Howard
- Feb 17 Doug Scott
- Feb 18 Allie Dunn
- Feb 19 Jim Beisner
- Feb 20 Sue Rodgers
- Feb 23 Ellora Newsome
- Feb 24 Carol Turk

I have found
the one
 whom my soul loves.
Song of Solomon 3:4



Stockbridge Presbyterian Church
 "The Church at the Bridge"

Bridging the Gaps in People's Lives!

- Between us and God
- With family, friends & neighbors

Henry County Georgia

1821

The Church At The Bridge

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, it's Tuesday, January 24, 2017, and the high today is 71. **71.** Linda Hodges is working from home because the doc has told her she MUST keep her leg elevated 24/7 until it heals, which I'm all in favor of as she's been dealing with this since October and enough is enough! I feel really bad for her, and she's been very brave. Also, Charter has failed us and the church computers can't get online. Major ugh. My sweet dog Catie must go to the vet this afternoon because it seems her thyroid is conking out. People I love dearly are struggling with chronic pain, brutal cancer treatments, depression, and unemployment. And other hard stuff.

Things are just NOT as I would like them to be!

Well, they never are, are they? If we look, we can always find things that we're not happy about. But what about if we look AWAY? Set our minds on different things?

I'm VERY happy about getting to serve a congregation of people who are loving, smart, gifted, energetic, creative, giving, and who care deeply about their neighbor. (That's just a partial list of all the good things about you!) I'm VERY happy with our Session – good, faithful, committed folks. I'm also very happy that Jim Beisner continues to serve as Clerk of Session when I'm pretty sure he and Peggy would rather be doing more traveling and having more play time! They never complain, though ... about anything, ever. Hmmm ... maybe there's a lesson there for me (and all of us)! I'm very happy with our excellent staff: Breon, Dorothy, Glory, Linda, and Ward. (We also have 3 contract workers, did you know that? Alex does the outside grounds, Liz is our web and social media person, and Suzie helps take care of the nursery. Happy with those 3, too!) And lots of other GOOD stuff.

I have to tell you, just typing all that made me feel better! Colossians 4:2 says, "Devote yourself to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving." Talk to God about EVERYTHING. Feel free to discuss all your worries and anxieties. Make a list of all your complaints. And then make a list of all the things you're grateful for. Living a life of gratitude is powerful and joyful; it makes us aware all the time of God's presence, and it helps us feel contented. And doesn't that sound good? Don't forget to

SPC SPOTLIGHT

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor

thank God just for who he is: fully kind, loving, powerful, righteous, wise, just, and merciful (another partial list). He loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us, and his Holy Spirit to keep us. Face it: we're extraordinarily blessed! Thank you, Lord!

A little bit of news: I'll be away and out of touch from Monday, February 13, through Wednesday, March 1, taking long-postponed study leave. Glory will be preaching, and she's preached here before and we KNOW she's wonderful! But I'll see you for sure at 7:00 on March 1, which is our Ash Wednesday service and one of my favorite times of the year. Yes, Easter is coming! The way this weird weather is going, it'll probably snow!

There are so many good reasons to come to worship. Find one you like and come! Much love to each of you, and I'll see you in church –

Susan

UPCOMING SERMONS

- Feb 5 Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20
"Doing Good" 
- Feb 12 Scout Sunday
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 5:21-26
"What Really Matters"
- Feb 19 Guest Preacher, Glory Cumbow
- Feb 25 Guest Preacher, Glory Cumbow

Where
 God guides,
 He provides
 ISAIAH 58:11

YOUTH NEWS

Hey SPC,
Grab a loved one and join the youth on Sunday, February 12 for a "Sweetheart Lunch." After the church service the SPC Youth invite you to join us in the fellowship hall to eat lunch together as a community. We will be taking up a "love offering" for the youth in order to prepare for the summer mission trip. There is no set price for lunch, so give just as God leads you to give! We hope to see everyone there.

The youth have some exciting things in store. We will be preparing for Easter by learning about Jesus' life and ministry through "The Way" Lenten Bible study. We will also be working on a creative project to share with the community. We will work on large coloring sheets that depict the "Stations of the Cross." Stations of the cross is typically a practice where people walk through Jesus' journey of betrayal, conviction, carrying his cross, and crucifixion. This will be paired with learning about Jesus' life so that we will eagerly embrace Easter Sunday in joyous celebration of victory over death. I am excited to walk through this time with the youth and share our learnings with the church.

Finally, you will be seeing me in the pulpit a few times in the coming months! I will be bringing the word the last two Sundays of February as well as on Palm Sunday in April. I am excited to go to God in prayer and to bring God's message to you. Thanks for all of your support!

Blessings,
Glory Cumbow



SWEETHEART LUNCH

Our youth will be hosting a "Sweetheart Lunch" immediately following worship on **Sunday, February 12, 2017**

A love offering will be taken in preparation for our summer mission trip. Please come ready to eat and fellowship with one another.

Stockbridge Middle School Gently Used Book Drive

SMS Mighty Girls will be holding a gently used book sale in the Media Center Feb.13-17. All proceeds raised will benefit Ms. Gussie's Place, a school for children with multiple disabilities. Jacqueline Howard, founder and director of the school, met with our group after we read Sharon Draper's *Out of My Mind*. She inspired us, and we want to help her help children with, as Ms. Howard says, Different Abilities.

If you have any gently used books that are appropriate for middle school students (they also love cookbooks!) we are going to sell paperbacks for \$1.00 and hard back books for \$3.00. Any book donations you can make are greatly appreciated. We will start collecting books on Monday, January 30th and continue collecting until Thursday, Feb. 9th.

We need you! Please consider joining the SPC Friends Team. If you can't join, donations are always welcome.

To join the SPC Friends Team, donate, or purchase a luminary in memory or in honor of someone, right click on link below and then click on open hyperlink. This will take you directly to the SPC Friends' page.

http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY17SA?team_id=2115568&pg=team&fr_id=83013

Our team members are Allie Dunn, Stephanie Dunn, Arlene Lathrop, Heather Richardson, and Laura Richardson.

There are also luminary forms in the Narthex for you to fill out. You can give your donations to Arlene Lathrop, who is the team leader for this event.

SAVE THE DATE—MARCH 26, 2017
The Witness Committee will be hosting the RFL luncheon on March 26, immediately following worship.



New Year, New Start

The holidays are over and the decorations have been put away. Now what?? We are well into 2017!

Are you interested in growing as a disciple of Christ? There are many resources to help you. The weekly bulletin and SPC website are excellent resources to start with along with the following suggestions:

Study God's Word

Attend Sunday School on a regular basis. Sunday School Options:

- Pastor's Discipleship Class, 9:45-10:30, Upstairs "Lectionary Sunday School," where we study whatever the Lectionary passages are for that Sunday. This is discussion, not lecture.
- The Wired Word, 9:30-10:30, Parlor A current news story is read and discussed, followed by scripture showing how scripture is relevant to today's news.
- Walter Lee Memorial, 9:45 - 10:30, Upstairs - "The Present Word"

Youth (College and under)

- Youth 9:45 - 10:30 - Upstairs - Youth class is for anyone college age or under and we talk about current events and how the Bible helps us sort modern questions.

Presbyterian Women's Circles
(See bulletin for details)

Personal study with an accountability partner using the Sail Boat Church 40 day devotional in the back. (Request a copy from Susan, if you did not attend the retreat)

Service

Consider being an usher or an acolyte. Serve on a committee that you are interested in.

There is always something you can do to grow as a disciple! Just let us know what your interests are. We are here to help!

In Service,
Laura & Stephanie

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Week

FEBRUARY 18 - 24
At Truett's Grill on Jonesboro Road in McDonough

- Step 1** - Ask the Truett's Grill employee for your receipt.
- Step 2** - Write SPC FRIENDS* on the receipt.
- Step 3** - Place it in the Relay for Life receipt collection bags.

*Receipts without a valid team name will not be counted.

Receipts received by Feb. 24 will be added up by team name and each team will receive 10% of their receipts as a donation to support Relay for Life.



2016 New Members

Jean Bunker
220 Sagebrush Rd.
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Chantal Daniels
816 Cameron Landing Dr.
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Jacob Ingram
41 Lookout Dr.
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Erika Moxley
2030 Tudor Dr.
McDonough, GA 30253

Christina & Justin Pratt
816 Cameron Landing Dr.
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Sue Rodgers
950 Eagles Landing Pkwy, Ste. 493
Stockbridge, GA 30281

SESSION NEWS

Clerk's Report:

The Session received the annual request for support from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

The Session received a letter from the Shining Light Recovery Home for Women requesting a donation.

The Session received a request for a donation to the Caring Hands Fund from Presbyterian Homes of Georgia.

The Session received a letter from Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity requesting a donation.

Jim reminded the committees of requirements for the 2016 annual report.

The Session approved the 2017 activities calendar.

Resources Committee:

The Session approved a \$50.00 Christmas bonus for all church employees.

November 2016 financial statements were reviewed.

Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Worship & CE Committee:

No issues or recommendations

Pastor's Report:

Susan had no report.

New Business:

The Session approved Jim Beisner as Clerk and Sue Scheer as Assistant Clerk of Session for 2017.

Kim discussed Stockbridge Presbyterian Church's financial support of the Presbytery. SPC has only paid \$39.00 toward the operational support of the Presbytery. The Session approved a support gift to Presbytery of \$1,000 and a letter of apology.

Kim reviewed the membership rolls and recommended the following persons to be removed from the rolls: Carmen & Lazro Benitez, Julie Conn, Donnie Dunlap, Eric Fisher, James Johnson, Melanie McGee, Mary Trammell, Rick & Karen White and Lee Watson. A notification letter will be sent to the individuals. The Session will vote on their removal at the January stated meeting.

The Session approved Alex Seal to take over the lawn maintenance services for the church effective January 2017.

SESSION NEWS

Called Meeting:

December 14, 2016

Susan Bennett opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Bennett stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss and vote on the use of the Fellowship Hall on December 17, 2016 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm by Chantel Daniels to celebrate the first birthday of her daughter Channah Daniels. The Session approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by Chantel Daniels on December 17, 2016.

The reason for the meeting having been accomplished, Rev. Bennett closed the meeting with prayer.



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.



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 2017 by providing a gift of \$23.00 per SPC member. Thank you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

- Feb 5** Jim Beisner
- Feb 12** Jeffrey Cochran
- Feb 19** Aaron Roberts
- Feb 26** Terry Holmes

LITURGISTS

- Feb 5** Jim Beisner
- Feb 12** Jeffrey Cochran
- Feb 19** Aaron Roberts
- Feb 26** Lee Hart

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- Feb 5** Sue Scheer
- Feb 12** Stephanie Dunn
- Feb 19** Mary Carol Stanley
- Feb 26** John Dunn

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- Feb 5** The Clipper Family
- Feb 12** The Szeto Family
- Feb 19** Stephanie Dunn/Diana Taylor
- Feb 26** The Roberts Family