

# OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 AA Mtg.	2 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 5:30 PW#2 Meeting 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	5	6 11:30 - 2:00 Kid's Camp @ The Mill
7 12:15 Called Session Meeting (Stephanie Ayoola)	8 7:00 AA Mtg.	9 9:00 Early Risers 6:30 Discipleship Mtg. 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11 5:30 Resources Mtg. 7:00 AA Mtg.	12	13
14 12:15 Fall Festival Picnic (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. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	19	20
21 12:15 Witness Meeting (Jo Linda Ingram)	22 7:00 AA Mtg.	23 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	26	27
28 (Stephanie Dunn)	29 7:00 AA Mtg.	30 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			

	Oct 1	Cheri Bailey
	Oct 4	Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter
	Oct 5	John Dunn
	Oct 11	Judy Simmons
	Oct 15	Sandra Martin
	Oct 17	Carlton Smith
	Oct 22	Jeffrey Cochran

Autumn Blessings

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# SPC SPOTLIGHT



A longtime friend of mine struggles on a daily basis with anxiety. Some days are better than others, and she's been working on this for quite a while now, so it's easy to see a lot of genuine improvement. I'm so thankful, because anxiety is an extremely difficult thing to have to cope with on a daily basis. And I've noticed through the years that in one way or another, what triggers her anxiety is always the same thing: Change. Not just difficult change, but good change, too. Any change at all is alarming and unsettling to her. Why is this a mess? Because everything changes! All the time!

So of course I'm talking about us, SPC, right here, right now. Things are changing. Almost every sermon I preach talks about the necessity of change in order for The Church to survive. (Not just SPC. All churches!) People get nervous about talk like this because most of us don't want ANYTHING to change! And now, not too far off, a really big change is in store. I retire November 4th. What will happen? Who'll be the new pastor? Will we be ok? Waiting for the answers to these questions raises everyone's anxieties.

I know that sometimes, when all I can feel is anxiety, I have to pull back and remind myself, "Susan, there IS a God!" Isn't that crazy? But we can get so caught up in worry about the future that we forget our future is absolutely in God's hands, and we're safe there. And I also find comfort in the fact that I'm not alone: There are people who love me and will help in every way they can. You're blessed with these things, too.

Right now the SPC Session is serving as a search committee for an interim pastor. They've already met 3 times and had at least 100 email discussions. Each one is intent on listening to God and caring for you, the people of SPC. They are praying, studying resumes, talking, thinking, praying, and praying some more. Interviews will start probably this week. Each candidate comes with excellent references and rave "reviews" from every congregation they've served. They have received special training and feel deeply called to serve specifically as interim pastors

– which has become almost a specialty. There's no outside authority that can FORCE the Session to choose a certain way, or map out a different future for SPC. I absolutely trust the Session to hear God's voice and do right by each of you. Their goal is to discern God's will and keep us unified, together in worship, service, and friendship.

If you have questions about the process, please feel free to ask any Session member: Jeffrey Cochran, Gene Ingram, Arlene Lathrop, Stephanie Phillips Ayoola, Laura Richardson, Aaron Roberts, or Kim Seal. Or come and talk to me. I know change is never easy and it's hard not to be anxious, but God has provided really, REALLY excellent leadership for SPC. My guess is that this next chapter of your life together will be the most exciting one yet!

And, as always ... so much just comes down to trust, doesn't it? Trust God and trust the Session. They will not let you down! Much love to each of you.

See you in church --  
Susan



### UPCOMING SERMONS

- Oct 7 Psalm 133  
Ephesians 4:16  
"Communing"
- Oct 14 Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
Mark 10  
"Plead Your Case"
- Oct 21 Job 38:1-7, 34-41  
Mark 10:35-45  
"Why Humility Sets Us Free"
- Oct 28 Hebrews 10:15-17  
Isaiah 49:14-18  
"Engraved With Love"





### Reception Honoring

#### Rev. Susan Bennett

As you know, Susan is retiring and her last Sunday will be **November 4**. There will be a meal and reception honoring Rev. Susan Bennett, immediately following the service for all of us to tell her personally what she has meant to this congregation. No gifts, cards are welcome.

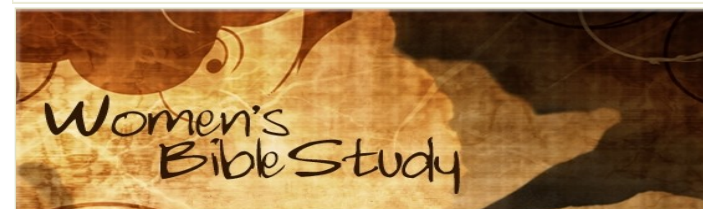


**Fall Festival Picnic**  
**Sunday, October 14**  
**Following the Worship Service**  
 The church will supply the meat and drinks. We are asking that our church members please bring a dish to share and/or dessert.  
 This year we have extended our invitation to our local community! We're not sure how many visitors we will have, but we will be ready.  
 We are also planning on renting the photo booth again this year.

### Goodness & Groceries Ministry



Goodness and Groceries meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and be part of this mission to pack weekend food bags for school children in Cotton Indian Elementary, Smith Barnes, Stockbridge Middle, and Dutchtown Middle. If you have any questions, please call Linda Roberts at (770) 474-0220 or email her at lsr1273@gmail.com.



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.



### 5 ON THE 1ST FOR JOSEPH'S PANTRY



### Kid's Camp @ The Mill

**Saturday, October 6**  
**From 11:30 - 2:00 PM**



Do you know what your generous donations to the general fund are used for? Here are a few examples:

- ◆ Lights for you to see by
- ◆ Power that warms or cools you
- ◆ Paper products to eat off
- ◆ Paper to make bulletins, announcements, and newsletters to inform you
- ◆ Educational materials to learn by
- ◆ The services to clean the church and haul away our garbage
- ◆ The service to keep the lawns mowed
- ◆ Water that is essential for many things
- ◆ Our Pastor and staff for their countless hours of dedication
- ◆ Our webmaster who keeps us in the 21st century

So we thank each and every one of you!

God Bless,  
 Kim Seal  
 Resources Committee

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

### SESSION MINUTES

#### Stated Meeting - August 21, 2018

Cassandra Morrow, SPC's Congregational Consultant visited with the Session. Rev. Bennett announced her intention to retire from ministry effective 11/4/2018. Cassandra then briefed the Session on the process to find both an interim and full-time pastor and what type of support the Presbytery will provide.

#### Clerk's Report:

Communications:

The Session received a thank you note from PC (USA) Director of Special Offerings for our One Great Hour of Sharing gift of \$25.00 and Christmas Joy Offering of \$30.00.

The Session received the annual report for SPC from the PC (USA) Presbyterian Mission.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Jim reviewed the schedule for updating the church officer handbook.

Jim reminded committee members responsible for rating church employees to have their evaluations completed by the end of August.

Jim also reminded committee members about the 9th of September 2018 for the annual budget meeting in conjunction with our monthly special meeting.

#### Resources Committee:

No issues or recommendations. The Session reviewed the July 2018 financial statement.

#### Witness Committee:

The Session approved the Fall Festival Picnic tentative date of October 14, 2018.

#### Discipleship Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

#### Pastor's Report:

Susan had no report.

#### New Business:

The Session approved Janna Szeto to borrow about 30 chairs from SPC for a birthday party this weekend. They will pick them up Friday 8/24/18 and return them ASAP after the weekend.

The Session approved moving the scheduled congregation meeting from 11/11/18 to 11/4/18 to facilitate the dissolution of Susan's call.

#### Special Meeting August 5, 2018

Rev. Susan Bennett opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Bennett stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Our Daily Bread" and Chapter 6 of "Leading a Life with God".

Laura selected a reading from "Our Daily Bread" and dis-

### SESSION MINUTES

cussed the impact of the devotional on her. Further discussion by members of the Session followed.

Susan led a discussion on Chapter 6 of "Leading a Life with God" with Session members describing passages they felt important.

The reason for the meeting having been accomplished, Laura Richardson closed the meeting with prayer.

#### Congregation Meeting

##### August 12, 2018

Rev. Susan Bennett called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer at 12:00 PM. Jim Beisner, Secretary, declared a quorum of 10% of active members present.

The moderator stated the purpose of the meeting was to elect the 2018 Nominating Committee whose job will be to nominate 4 individuals for the Elder Class of 2021.

Susan introduced Stephanie Phillips Ayoola who was approved by the Session to serve as Co-Chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee. Stephanie introduced Aaron Roberts as the other Co-Chair from the Session. Stephanie then read the names of the following members who have volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee: Sue Scheer, Tami Pass, Paul Szeto, and Janna Szeto. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The slate was unanimously elected.

The purpose for which the meeting was called having been accomplished, the meeting was closed with a prayer and the benediction by Rev. Bennett.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

#### BEADLE

- Oct 7 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola
- Oct 14 Terry Holmes
- Oct 21 Stephanie Dunn
- Oct 28 Gene Ingram

#### LITURGISTS

- Oct 7 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola
- Oct 14 Terry Holmes
- Oct 21 Jo Linda Ingram
- Oct 28 Stephanie Dunn

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

- Oct 7 Janna Szeto
- Oct 14 Tami Pass
- Oct 21 Stephanie Dunn
- Oct 28 John Dunn

#### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- Oct 7 Greg Lathrop
- Oct 14 The Howard Family
- Oct 21 The Roberts Family
- Oct 28 The Coutin-Baxter Family