



FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion (Tami Pass)	4 7:00 AA Mtg.	5 9:00 Early Risers 6:30 Discipleship Mtg. 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 5:30 PW#2 Circle Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	8	9 9 - 2:00 Presbytery Meeting
10 12:15 Called Session (Jeffrey Cochran)	11 7:00 AA Mtg.	12 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 7:00 AA Mtg.	15	16
17 12:15 Fellowship Luncheon 1:15 Resources Mtg. 1:15 Witness Mtg. (Aaron Roberts)	18 Presidents' Day (Office Closed) 7:00 AA Mtg.	19 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	22	23
WINTER BREAK - SCHOOL'S OUT						
24 12:15 Discipleship Mtg. (Lee Hart)	25 7:00 AA Mtg.	26 9:00 Early Risers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Stated Session Mtg.	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.		

- Happy Birthday!**
- Feb 4 Jean Bunker
 - Feb 4 Sydney Clipper
 - Feb 6 Arlene Lathrop
 - Feb 6 Maegan Seal
 - Feb 13 Jason Howard
 - Feb 14 Mary Trammell
 - Feb 17 Doug Scott
 - Feb 18 Allie Dunn
 - Feb 19 Jim Beisner
 - Feb 20 Sue Rodgers
 - Feb 23 Elora Newsome
 - Feb 23 Lucia Turner
 - Feb 24 Carol Turk



SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

Friends,

I want to thank all of you for your kindness following the death of my cousin in early January. So many of you have reached out with cards, kind words of sympathy, warm hugs, and endless prayers. You have given me the gift of your compassion and understanding, and, importantly, made space for a pastor (one you barely know!) to be a bit of a mess these last few weeks. I extend particular thanks to Jim Beisner, Monica Coutin-Baxter, and Tami Pass for stepping up to lead worship while I was with family in Texas to say goodbye to Matthew. In the midst of my deep grief, you have been the church for me, and I am deeply grateful.

And I'm also inspired, because I believe that what you have done for me is the church at its best:

- tending to the hurting and the vulnerable,
- making space for people to weep and to wonder and, yes, to be a mess,
- sharing acts and words of kindness,
- proclaiming hopeful good news.

The question before you is how you will do that work, create that kind of space, and be that kind of church... on this particular corner, at the bridge, in Stockbridge, GA? How can this congregation be the church at its best, not only for each other, but for and with the neighbors just outside our doors?

I recently saw an online conversation between ministers, where the debate was over how exactly to understand a tiny little rule in the Book of Order about communion. Most of the folks were concerned with the letter of the law. But my favorite comment was someone who cut

through all that by saying, quite simply, "if I'm going to get in trouble, let it be for sharing too much."

The church you have been for me the past few weeks is exactly the church we are called to be for our neighbors. There are folks all around us who desperately desire a place to pray and be prayed over, to learn and seek meaning, to be a mess, to find compassion, to be loved, to grow, to belong, and to hear the promise of the gospel. In other words, what you have given me is exactly what others are hungry for, and precisely what Christ calls us to offer to the world God loves.

Don't be afraid to share too much.

Peace,
 Betsy Turner

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- Feb 3** Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 61
Luke 4:14-30
"Anointed"
- Feb 10** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Psalm 138
Luke 5:1-11
"Called"
- Feb 17** Six Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 6:17-26
"Blessed"
- Feb 24** Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Psalm 37:3-11
Luke 6:27-38
"Challenged"

So, What's Your STORY?

Everyone seemed to enjoy getting to know the new elders in the January newsletter, so this month, we shine the spotlight on our returning session members.

Jeffrey Cochran

I grew up in Stockbridge, less than a mile from the church, and am currently self-employed as an architect in Atlanta. I have an African grey parrot and a cockatiel, and have had many other exotic pets over the years.

I came to SPC about twelve years ago because my parents were here. This very quickly became "my" church as well. I serve as liturgist, teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, and this will be my third year on Session. Each of these opportunities has taught me new things about God, the church, and myself. It is an honor to watch God work in this place and through His people. I'm always looking forward to seeing what He has in store for us next.

Gene Ingram

I have been retired from the Army for over 24 years and have been a member of SPC since 2014. I visited the church for over 30 years as a member of Troop 65, sponsored by SPC including Scout Sundays and other special times. Since joining the church, I have served on the Building and Grounds committee, the Witness committee, and am now serving on the Resource committee. My wife Linda serves on the Witness committee and is active in the Goodness and Groceries ministry, the Muffin Brigade, Joseph's Pantry, and a few other ministries as well. We have been married for fifty years (yippee) and have one son, Jacob, who is a member of the choir and the ring-a-dings. We all enjoy being active in the church and are always looking for opportunities. As I start my second term as an elder, I hope to help make SPC a warm and inviting sanctuary for all the members of our community.

Stephanie Phillips Ayoola

Born at Fort Wolters, Texas Army base, I moved to Atlanta at an early age. My grandmother was a Sunday School teacher at Lakewood Methodist and my mother was a pianist, so church was mandatory. My children and I joined the wonderful SPC family back in 2000. I was blessed with close to 18 years of overseeing the nursery & toddler area. These little ones have helped me in so many ways to become the Christian I am today, always willing to share unconditional love and joy. I always thought I would be the one to teach them however, they surely taught me how to love more deeply.

Next, I was asked to serve on the Elder Nomination Committee, which led to the honor of being asked to become an Elder. I served first on the Discipleship Committee, learning all the specifics details of Presbyterian worship. Now I serve on Witness Committee, loving each and every part of outreach and fellowship involved. It has been an amazing two years of learning about each and every member of the congregation, as well as being a part of the community outreach programs. God has truly called me to serve with heart full of love and compassion. I look forward to the

next phase at SPC and to see God's plan for us to serve our church family, visitors, and community.

Aaron Roberts

My parents found SPC upon moving to Stockbridge in 1992. I was 14 at the time and it has been home ever since. Even after we moved to Buckhead in 2016, this remained OUR CHURCH. The drive doesn't bother us, and the congregation is always warm and welcoming. Amy and I were married here and Collin and Elle were both baptized in the same font that still sits in the front of our sanctuary. While I wasn't raised as a regular churchgoer, I feel strange now if I miss a Sunday at SPC. I know each member has something to offer Jesus, and I look forward to what 2019 and beyond has for us. We just have to pray and work together to make sure His love reaches everyone who needs it. It's about Him, not about us. See you Sunday!

Kim Seal

I have been a member of SPC for close to 30 years. Mike and I got married here almost 26 years ago. We have raised 3 children Justin, Maegan, and Alex here. The church family has been a blessing to my family many times over: from Sunday School lessons over the years, the many friendships, allowing me to serve on Session, through my dad's death, my health issues, Alex's cancer, and the list goes on. I became a nurse many years ago serving in many health care settings to serve God's people; and SPC has allowed me to do the same. Many thanks to all.

a word from . . . Ward

I did something I rarely do a couple of Sundays ago: I announced that we needed some new choir members. A colleague suggested that we offer a "trial membership." I think it is a good idea. No long-term commitment is required. We are looking for people who would just try choir for, say, Lent, without obligation. No one in our present choir is obligated. We are a volunteer group. They come because they love singing. They love the fellowship.

One member says that choir is her therapy. I can see that. A well-planned rehearsal is worshipful. I usually leave happier, uplifted, and blessed. Scientists say singing is actually good for your health. The most prevalent excuse for not participating is "I don't have enough time." Well, let's see if you do. Come and join us! (Music Readership Not Required)

We practice every Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. with optional remedial rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m., if you miss Wednesday or just need extra help.



From: Dorothy Clark

Wednesday, February 20, at 6:00 is our first rehearsal of the new year. It won't be long before we begin to practice Easter music either! I look forward to getting together with all you "old" ringers then. There is always room for NEW ringers, too, so if you are interested in giving handbell ringing a try, contact me by email (dec721@gmail.com) or phone (404-234-0672), and we will be thrilled to move over and make room for you!

SESSION MINUTES

Stated Meeting - December 18, 2018

Clerk's Report:

Communications:

The Session received no communications in since the last stated session meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

A reminder to the committees was made to start reviewing and preparing items for the 2018 annual report.

The Session approved the 2019 Activities Calendar with the possible change in the Stated Session Meeting dates. A final decision will be made at the elder training session.

Resources Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

The Session reviewed the November 2018 financial statement.

Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Discipleship Committee:

Approve Rev. Betsy Turner to take communion to those that are not able to attend services as needed throughout 2019.

Pastor's Report:

Betsy reported a good turnout for the Healing Service held immediately following worship service 12/16/18 in addition to a visit to Laurel Park with choir members.

She also requested thoughts be made to include more members to the lists of worship service assistants. She will add an insert to the bulletin for volunteers.

New Business:

The Session approved Jim Beisner as Clerk and Gene Ingram and Kim Seal as Assistant Clerks of Session for 2019.

The Session approved Kim Seal as Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for 2019.

Gene proposed allowing Dorothy Clark to use annual leave for surgery recovery and then paying her the difference of her monthly salary and what SPC will pay a replacement pianist. It was approved by the session to allow Dorothy to use her approved four week vacation time as sick leave and the payment of a replacement from 12/30/18 thru 1/27/19.

Betsy requested the sessions approval to have communion the first Sunday of each month, in addition to Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services in 2019. Motions were made, and approved by all.

Special Meeting - December 9, 2018

Rev. Turner opened the meeting with prayer.

Jeffrey Cochran read a devotional from Our Daily Bread titled "Lord of the Moment" taken from 2 Kings. Further discussion by the members of Session followed.

SESSION MINUTES

Betsy led a discussion on Chapter 8 of "Leading a Life with God" and opened discussion from all members as to the importance of this chapter to each.

New Business:

A change in the previously approved Boy Scouts "Venture Crew" was made by Gene Ingram. A Girl Scout troop will take the place of the Venture Crew, meeting with the current Boy Scout troop. Motions were made and all members approved of the change.

Laura Richardson requested the approval of a Healing Service, December 16, 2018, following the morning worship service. Betsy will prepare a notice for the bulletin and church wide email. Motions were made and all members approved.

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



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 2019 by providing a gift of \$27.00 per SPC member. Thank you.



Circle #2 meets the 1st Wednesday at 5:30 PM in the Parlor.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

Feb 3 Tami Pass
Feb 10 Jeffrey Cochran
Feb 17 Aaron Roberts
Feb 24 Laura Richardson

LITURGISTS

Feb 3 Tami Pass
Feb 10 Jeffrey Cochran
Feb 17 Aaron Roberts
Feb 24 Lee Hart

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Feb 3 Tami Pass
Feb 10 Stephanie Dunn
Feb 17 John Dunn
Feb 24 Aaron Roberts

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

Feb 3 The Coutin-Baxter Family
Feb 10 The Clipper Family
Feb 17 The Szeto Family
Feb 24 The Roberts Family