



MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	3	4 9-12:45 Presbytery Mtg.
5 Communion 12:15 Community Picnic (Jo Linda Ingram)	6 7:00 AA Mtg.	7 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 AA Mtg.	10	11
12 Mother's Day (Gene Ingram)	13 7:00 AA Mtg.	14 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	17	18
19 12:15 Resources Mtg. 12:15 Witness Mtg. (Monica Coutin-Baxter)	20 7:00 AA Mtg.	21 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	24 Last Day of School	25
26 12:15 Discipleship Mtg. (Aaron Roberts)	27 7:00 AA Mtg. Memorial Day (Office Closed)	28 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Stated Session Mtg.	29 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	31	

- Happy Birthday!**
- May 1 Kirubanithy Mani
  - May 10 Susanna Sierra
  - May 11 Brad Pass
  - May 14 Lynne Bailey
  - May 17 Erika Moxley
  - May 17 Justin Stanley
  - May 22 Terry Holmes
  - May 26 Peggy Beisner
  - May 26 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola
  - May 26 Laura Richardson

- May 30 Annetta Harper
- May 30 Marida Lin
- May 31 Kingsley Mani
- May 31 Melissa Schroer
- May 31 Mabel White



SPC SPOTLIGHT



A huge thank you to the Witness Committee and all the donors and participants to our first (hopefully annual) participation in the Hunger Walk/Run. We enjoyed a festive lunch on March 24, which kicked off a season of giving toward this worthy cause, and in total, we raised a total of about \$1200 for the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The Bank estimates that for every \$1 raised, they are able to make available \$9 worth of food. That means our church's gift will provide nearly \$11,000 worth of food, or over 40,000 meals. Joined with the many other donors and sponsors, it adds up to a lot less hunger in our community. What a faithful response to Christ's call to "feed my sheep"!



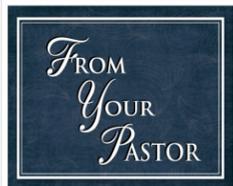
It's time to shift our thinking about the church's operating budget. We mistakenly think of it as separate from the mission budget, but the truth is, the operating cost of the church IS mission spending. Paying for the building, staff, and programs enables us to fulfill the mission to which God calls us. We serve hundreds of people per

month through a number of different ministries, but in order to do that good work, we've got to keep the lights on, the doors open, and the church running on a week-by-week basis. Put simply, our business is serving people in Christ's name, and we want to be as strong and healthy as possible so that we can do a lot of business!

In April, we let you know about a shortfall in the church's operating income, and we asked you to do 5 things: reflect on God's abundance, renew your commitment, invite others to church, give more, and pray for SPC. Your Session has been doing just that – they've responded with increased giving and also lively conversation and deep discernment about the faithful stewardship of the church's resources. Your leaders have also been looking into creative sources of income, as well as ways to responsibly control costs.

This is an ongoing conversation, and we invite you to be a part of it, even as you continue to reflect, renew, invite, give more, and pray. We look forward to bringing you more information in the weeks ahead. The good news is, we are in this together. Trusting our generous God who promises to provide abundantly, may we all be blessed as we give generously and cheerfully to God's mission through Stockbridge Presbyterian Church!





Friends,

I cannot believe that in May I will have been with you for 6 months! The time has flown by as I have gotten to know you and your traditions, been invited into your fellowship and stories and in some cases homes, and worshipped and served alongside you. I continue to feel richly blessed by this congregation, and humbled by the privilege of serving among you.

But I am an interim. Some days, I wish it weren't so, because you are so dear. But, alas, God called me here for this particular season, to get you ready for the person God is preparing to be your next installed (long-term) pastor.

In the weeks ahead, you'll be hearing about the formation of a Congregational Nominating Committee. Don't get too lost in the Presbyterian order and jargon – just know that this initial team, likely a team of 3, will prayerfully select those, who will be on the Pastor Nominating Committee (a.k.a. PNC / Search Committee / "Pulpit committee", likely a team of 5). Both committees should represent the breadth of the congregation, so we will be looking for young and old, women and men, long-term and newer members, etc. To prevent any conflict of interest, anyone who serves on the congregational committee, along with their family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings, etc), will be exempt from serving on the PNC. So, please be thinking about, and talking with your family members as applicable, about whether God might be calling you to serve the church on one of these committees. For each, you will have a chance to express your interest in being considered, as well as to suggest others that you think would be assets for this important work.

You will also be seeing information in the weeks ahead about the CAT scan. This is a survey tool that will help the Session, PNC, me, and your eventual next pastor understand the current state of the congregation. You may remember doing the CAT scan about 8 years ago, but completing it again now will provide important up-to-date information about SPC.

Even as we take these steps into the search process, please rest assured that I am committed to being your pastor for the length of this season. There is no set timeline for the process, and I'm looking forward to the months ahead with you. I will continue to preach and teach, lead and serve, break the bread and pour the cup, hold your hands and visit you in the hospital, do weddings, baptisms, and funerals... and on and on. Perhaps most importantly, I pray for those who will be involved in the search process, for the pastor whom God is sending, for the whole congregation, and for each one of you. I am so thankful to be among you.

With Easter joy and hope for the future,  
Betsy

*a word from . . . Ward*

We have just finished a busy and different Holy Week, and I am thankful in so many ways. I am thankful that our loving church continues to support Dorothy Clark, who remains in rehab. I am thankful for four wonderful and talented children (Monica Andrea, Marie Anne, Maxwell, and Sophie), who love to sing and contribute to our worship so well. I am thankful for their parents. I am thankful for Linda Roberts, who, among her many gifts, plays the piano in our service. I am thankful for Arlene Lathrop, for her musical gifts and for bringing her woodwind quintet to play for an entire service. I am thankful for Greg Lathrop for managing our sound system, while also leading in the bass section. I am thankful for Andrea Emmel and Kristi Helfen for playing the piano for us so beautifully. I am thankful for Lee Hart and her wonderful sense of humor. I am thankful for Betsy, who is so easy and fun to work with in service planning. I am thankful for our choir for obvious reasons. I am thankful to our congregation, who sing any hymn we put before them and appreciate our efforts. And I am thankful for my wife, Lin, who is always there, supporting us in the soprano section. SPC is indeed a wonderful place.

**UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

- May 5** Revelation 5-11:14  
John 21:1-19  
"Do You Love Me?"
- May 12** Mother's Day  
Proverbs 31:10-31  
Acts 9:36-43, 16:13-16  
"A Woman of Valor, A Woman of Devotion"
- May 19** John 13:31-35  
Acts 11:1-18  
"A New Vision, A New Command"
- May 26** John 14:23-29  
Revelation 21, selected verses  
"A Promised Spirit, A Promised City"



**COMMUNITY PICNIC**

Our Community Picnic is Sunday, May 5, immediately following the Worship Service. It will be outside under the pavilion, weather permitting. The church will provide the meat for the meal, we ask that you bring your favorite side dishes or desserts to share. We welcome everyone, so invite your family and friends to come for lots of great food and fellowship. And don't forget to have your picture taken at the photo booth.



**SESSION MINUTES**

**Stated Meeting - March 26, 2019**

**Clerk's Report:**

**Communications:**

The Session received a letter from Presbyterian Mission announcing the availability of unassigned General Assembly Mission Restricted Funds for 2019.

The Session received a letter from Presbyterian Mission asking SPC to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering this year.

The Session received a letter from Presbyterian Mission thanking SPC for our contributions to the 2018 Special Offerings.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

The 2018 Session Minutes Review: The minutes were reviewed by Presbytery and were found to be without exception.

Jim stated all committees have submitted their information for 2018 annual report.

Jim reminded the committees about updating the Church Officer Handbook.

**Resources Committee:**

The Session approved paying Dorothy Clark's salary for April and May 2019 and reevaluate continuing to pay her salary at the May Stated Session meeting.

February 2019 financial statement was reviewed.

**Witness Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Discipleship Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Pastor's Report:**

Betsy reported she marked 22 people with ashes, 10 non-members and 12 church members during the "Ashes To Go" on Ash Wednesday.

Betsy will coordinate obtaining a congregation assessment tool from Presbytery. Resource Committee will develop a budget for the search for a new full-time pastor.

Betsy suggested forming a task force to review and update the church website. She asked the Session to prayerfully consider who could serve on the task force. Jeffrey has volunteered from the Session.

**New Business:**

The Session approved displaying the Missing Man Table in the Narthex as an ongoing display every Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.

Kim discussed plans to get the congregation more involved with giving to the general fund starting with announcing at the Corporation Meeting on 4/7/2019 the current trend of expenses and giving.

Betsy discussed the next steps in the pastor search process. A congregation nomination committee needs to be established to nominate congregation members to serve on the Pastor

**SESSION MINUTES**

Nomination Committee. It was determined that an Elder serving on the session will chair the congregational nominating committee. The Session will again discuss this committee at the special meeting on 4/14/19.

The Session approved Boy Scout Troop 65 to use the pavilion and Fellowship Hall for training on 4/13/19 from 8:00 am-3:00 pm.

**Special Meeting - March 10, 2019**

Monica Coutin-Baxter opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Our Daily Bread" and Chapter 10 of "Leading a Life with God".

Monica Coutin-Baxter read a devotional from Our Daily Bread and discussed the impact of the devotional on her. Further discussion by the members of Session followed.

Betsy led a discussion on Chapter 10 of "Leading a Life with God" with Session members describing passages they felt important.

**New Business:**

The Session approved the use of the Fellowship Hall for a Southeast Clergy Cluster meeting on 3/19/19 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The session approved accepting a monetary gift to pay a substitute accompanist(s) for the period Dorothy is absent.

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

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**BEADLE**

- May 5** Gene Ingram
- May 12** Gene Ingram
- May 19** Monica Coutin-Baxter
- May 26** Aaron Roberts

**LITURGISTS**

- May 5** Jo Linda Ingram
- May 12** Gene Ingram
- May 19** Monica Coutin-Baxter
- May 26** Aaron Roberts

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

- May 5** Paul Szeto
- May 12** John Dunn
- May 19** Aaron Roberts
- May 26** Monica Coutin-Baxter

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS**

- May 5** Stephanie Dunn/Diana Taylor
- May 12** Greg Lathrop
- May 19** The Howard Family
- May 26** The Roberts Family