

# NOVEMBER 2019

| Sun   | Mon                | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|
|   |                    |   |   |   | 1   | 2   |
| 3<br>Daylight Saving Time Ends<br>11:00 CAT Listening Session (PNC) | 4<br>7:00 AA Mtg.  | 5<br>7:00 Boy Scouts                              | 6<br>7:30 AM AA Mtg.<br>5:00 G&G<br>7:00 Choir Rehearsal    | 7<br>10:00 Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 AA Mtg.  | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br>COMMUNION<br>12:15 Called Session Meeting<br>(Aaron Roberts)  | 11<br>7:00 AA Mtg. | 12<br>7:00 Boy Scouts                             | 13<br>7:30 a.m. AA Mtg.<br>5:00 G&G<br>7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 14<br>10:00 Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 AA Mtg. | 15  | 16  |
| 17<br>12:15 SPC 110th Anniversary Lunch<br>(Paul Szeto)             | 18<br>7:00 AA Mtg. | 19<br>7:00 Boy Scouts<br>7:00 Stated Session Mtg. | 20<br>7:30 a.m. AA Mtg.<br>5:00 G&G<br>7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 21<br>10:00 Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 AA Mtg. | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br>12:15 Discipleship Mtg.<br>(Aaron Roberts)                    | 25<br>7:00 AA Mtg. | 26<br>7:00 Boy Scouts                             | 27<br>7:30 a.m. AA Mtg.                                     | 28<br>Happy Thanksgiving!<br>7:00 AA Mtg.       | 29  | 30  |
| <b>Thanksgiving Break (School's Out)</b>                            |                    |   |   |   |     |     |

|  |        |                 |
|--|--------|-----------------|
|  | Nov 8  | Gene Park       |
|  | Nov 9  | Sally Smith     |
|  | Nov 10 | Carrie Keller   |
|  | Nov 14 | E.G. Mani       |
|  | Nov 14 | Diana Taylor    |
|  | Nov 17 | Aaron Roberts   |
|  | Nov 20 | Betty Cochran   |
|  | Nov 27 | Michael Bennett |
|  | Nov 27 | Justin Palmer   |

**THE SPC SESSION**  
 Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

**Discipleship**  
 Aaron Roberts (20)  
 Paul Szeto (21)

**Witness**  
 Jeffrey Cochran (19)  
 Terry Holmes (21)  
 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (19)

**Resources**  
 Gene Ingram (21)  
 Kim Seal (20)

# SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

**Stockbridge Presbyterian Church**  
 Celebrating 110 Years of  
 "Bridging the Gap"

**Everyone welcome!**  
**Luncheon on Sunday, November 17**  
**in the Fellowship Hall following**  
**our Worship Service.**  
**Please join us and bring your**  
**favorite side dish to share.**

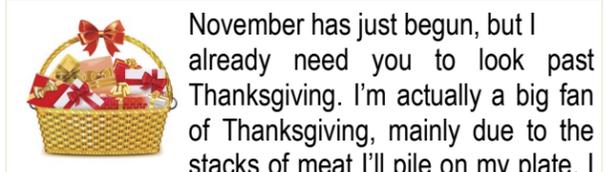
**Stockbridge Presbyterian Church**  
**110th Anniversary Commemorative Brick**

You can order a commemorative brick with your inscription in celebration for our 110th Anniversary. Your brick will be placed in the SPC Prayer Garden. The order form for the bricks is inside this newsletter.

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The PNC is meeting on a regular bases and working toward finding our next pastor. We continue to ask for your prayers. The members of the PNC are Aaron Roberts, Kim Seal, Terri Holmes, Annetta Harper, and Paul Szeto. For any questions about the search, please ask one of these members. We also really appreciate those that attended the CAT listening sessions. Your thoughts and comments are very valuable!

We are collecting winter coats, small blankets, socks, scarves, gloves for the Coat Closet. A bucket will be placed in the hallway leading to the nursery for you to place your donations in. Thank you so much!



November has just begun, but I already need you to look past Thanksgiving. I'm actually a big fan of Thanksgiving, mainly due to the stacks of meat I'll pile on my plate. I try to lay off the sides, except for green beans, collards, or deviled eggs if available. You must ignore many of the side items, because this leaves room for at least two pieces of pie. It's a holiday, but one that takes planning. You must figure out where all that food will fit on your plate and how you'll save room for those desserts.

But you need to think beyond Thanksgiving because our Christmas Basket program has begun. The schools are already sending in the Christmas lists of the kids we help each week with Goodness and Groceries. So, once this newsletter reaches you, feel free to tell me if you'd like to adopt a child, or 2, or...more :). We helped almost 90 kids last year so please jump in and lend a hand. Any and all help SPC members provide is REALLY appreciated. You can always reach me at [arob12001@gmail.com](mailto:arob12001@gmail.com) or 678-859-2767.

The Christmas Basket recipients will be at our church Saturday, December 21, so please keep that day open too. Many hands and smiling faces will be needed to greet the families and help carry items to the parking lot. This is a great SPC mission because ANYONE can help. Young kids, those that are physically limited...anyone. Please contact me and I'll find a spot for you.

It's an amazing experience to bring a Merry Christmas to these kids and I'd love for everyone to enjoy that with me. Check in with me soon!  
 Aaron Roberts

**mark your Calendar**

**Dec 8** – Creative Worship opportunity at SPC. (while our music folks are away for the special joint Advent service at Epiphany Lutheran in Conyers)  
**Dec 15** – Special Joint Advent Lessons and Carols Service, here at Stockbridge Presbyterian.



*"Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices..."*

It feels like we're racing toward the holiday season – Halloween has whizzed by (we served over 40 kids at our Trunk-n-Treat on October 29th!), and around here, we're already planning for Advent and Christmas services and special music (thanks, Choir, for all your hard work on the Magnificat for Dec 8 and 15, and the other music you're working on!). It can be a hectic time, from now through the end of the year!

Which is one reason I'm glad we have Thanksgiving Day in there. In the midst of all the busyness, distraction, and consumerism of the holiday season, we need the reminder to slow down and be grateful for what we have. The turkey and dressing and pie are nice, of course, but far more important is the invitation to be thankful – and for us, that takes the form of giving thanks to God, with hearts and hands and voices, as the old hymn says.

Did you know that scientific studies support an association between gratitude and an individual's well-being? It turns out that being grateful is actually good for us. Taking time to notice, express, and share gratitude makes us feel better, perform better, and have better relationships. And of course, the church has long known that gratitude is at the heart of our faith.

So I hope you will not confine your thankfulness to a single Thursday in November. Instead, why not take this month to start a spiritual practice of gratitude? All you have to do is give thanks, with heart or hand or voice. It can be as simple as taking time at the beginning and/or end of your day to name 5 things you're thankful for – either in your mind or perhaps in a gratitude journal. Maybe you'll write a thank-you note to someone you're thankful for – your gratitude will surely do them some good too! Consider doing something that will make someone else grateful – not in order to earn their thanks, but in response to all you have received.

Gratitude isn't magic, or cure for all that ails you. But it can help. You'll be surprised how gratitude can give you perspective, clarity, and comfort in the midst of whatever else is going on in your life. Try it!

On a personal note, I am giving particular thanks to God for you. Thanks for all your wonderful notes for clergy appreciation Sunday – what an encouragement to read your words of gratitude! I too am so grateful for the joy and privilege of being your pastor. And thanks also for the kindness so many of you showed to me and my family upon the recent death of Ian's grandmother Nell Roberts. We continue to grieve, even as we cling to the hope of the gospel and give thanks for her over 100 years of life and love. Thank you for holding us up in this time of loss.

Thankfully,  
Betsy



Friends, Advent is coming soon. Get ready for seasonal music. Our Sanctuary Choir has been working since August with the Chancel Choir of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers, on the Mark Hayes Magnificat along with other seasonal anthems of a great variety. We will sing in the 10 a.m. service at Epiphany on December 8 and the 11 a.m. service at SPC on December 15. This is a marvelous undertaking that should not be missed. We need your support. Please come, and if you can: help distribute and post our attractive posters in the neighborhood. Above is a picture of our last rehearsal.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

##### BEADLE

**Nov 10** Aaron Roberts  
**Nov 17** Paul Szeto  
**Nov 24** Aaron Roberts

##### LITURGISTS

**Nov 10** Aaron Roberts  
**Nov 17** Paul Szeto  
**Nov 24** Aaron Roberts

##### CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Nov 10** Aaron Roberts  
**Nov 17** Paul Szeto  
**Nov 24** Stephanie Phillips Ayoola

##### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

**Nov 10** The Szeto Family  
**Nov 17** The Baxter Family  
**Nov 24** Greg Lathrop

#### UPCOMING SERMONS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Nov 3</b> Genesis 28:10-22<br>Deuteronomy 31:6<br>Romans 5:1-5<br>Congregational<br>Listening Session | <b>Nov 10</b> Psalm 98:1-9<br>Luke 19:1-10<br>"A Wee Little Man"                    |
| <b>Nov 17</b> Luke 4:16-21<br>Isaiah 65:17-25<br>"A Glimpse of God's Vision"                             | <b>Nov 24</b> Luke 1:68-79<br>Colossians 1:15-23<br>"Singing of a<br>Mighty Savior" |

#### SESSION MINUTES

##### Stated Meeting - September 24, 2019

##### Clerk's Report:

Communications:

The Session received the 2019-2020 Presbyterian Giving Catalog which was passed to the Witness Committee.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Betsy gave an update the committees on the Church Officer Handbook.

A reminder to the committees was made by Jim to start reviewing and preparing items for the 2019 annual report and activities for 2020.

##### Resources Committee:

August 2019 financial statements were reviewed.

The Session approved the 2020 SPC operating budget.

##### Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

##### Discipleship Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

##### Pastor's Report:

Betsy reminded the Session the called meeting for October is the 13th with Paul hosting.

##### New Business:

The Session approved a six-month extension to Rev. Turner's present contract with a 3% salary increase effective 11/1/19. The Pastor Nominating Committee presented an update on their activities.

The Elder Nomination Committee presented an update on their activities.

The Session approved trimming trees by Total Tree Solutions Inc. for \$2,350.

##### Old Business:

The Session decided to hold a luncheon for the 110th SPC anniversary on 11/17/19. Bricks will be sold in honor and/or memory. Price will be \$40/per brick or \$110 for 3 bricks. Funds exceeding cost of bricks will be placed in the general fund.

Betsy asked for updates on actions for the Bridgefest event. Kim and Paul will serve bottled water commencing at 10:00 am on 9/28/19.

Betsy asked for updates on actions for the listening to the community project. It was decided to pursue 2 speakers from local schools to be invited to a worship service and luncheon in the late winter or early spring 2020. Betsy emailed Mary Carol Stanley

and Betsy Sierra concerning putting together the listening sessions.

Kim discussed progress on pictures for the church directory. She needs assistance during the picture shoot. Dates will be forth coming.

##### Special Meeting - September 8, 2019

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss the 2020 operating budget and decide what information from the CAT Scan should be disseminated to the congregation and by what means.

Aaron selected a reading from "Our Daily Bread" and discussed the impact of the devotional on him. Further discussion by members of the Session followed.

The Session drafted the 2020 church operating budget.

The Session decided to communicate the high points of the survey. Betsy will draft information for Jeffrey to create a presentation depicting the information to be sent to the congregation via email, weekly bulletin insert and minutes for mission.

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



#### Thornwell Home for Children "Fuzzy Tree"

I'm here! I'm here!

I'm always here at this time of year.

Oh, where? Oh, where?

Out in the Narthex, but I'm bare.

I need some fuzzies to wear.

Oh, I hope someone will care and

Cover my branches with lots of fuzzies to wear.

The children need them, they get so cold.

What they have is so tattered and old.

Please bring me some fuzzies,

tie them to my branches real tight.

So that the children will sleep warm though the night.

Please bring outside clothes (scarfs and gloves)

And when they get out in the weather,

They'll be warm and that will be so much better.

I know you all care, so please place on this tree,  
many different things that they can wear.

Show them you love them, please cover me!

From now until December 8, we will be collecting items for boys and girls, 0 - 18 years old, including clothes, sleepwear, and outerwear, such as gloves, hats, and scarves. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thornwell Home and School for Children is a mission of the Presbyterian Church, located in Clinton, SC.