



DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7:00 AA Mtg.	3 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	6	7
8 11:00 Advent Workshop & Fellowship 12:15 Called Session	9 7:00 AA Mtg.	10 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 7:30 AM AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G	12 7:00 AA Mtg.	13	14 4-8:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out
15 11:00 Magnificat Special Music Sunday (Jim Beisner)	16 7:00 AA Mtg.	17 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 AA Mtg.	20	21 Christmas Basket Distribution
22 12:30 Service of Comfort And Healing (Jason Howard)	23 7:00 AA Mtg.	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Svc. (Office Closed)	25 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg. Merry Christmas! (Office Closed)	26 7:00 AA Mtg. (Office Closed)	27	28
Christmas Break (School's Out)						
29 (Monica Coutin-Baxter)	30 7:00 AA Mtg.	31 Happy New Year's Eve!				
Christmas Break (School's Out)						



Dec 1 Shannon Huggins
 Dec 4 Stephanie Dunn
 Dec 7 Thomas Baxter
 Dec 7 Bert Turner
 Dec 8 Pearl Williams
 Dec 9 Chantal Daniels
 Dec 12 Ralph Pack
 Dec 19 Channah Daniels
 Dec 21 Maxwell Coutin-Baxter
 Dec 22 John Abbott
 Dec 22 Leslie Desimone

Dec 22 Claudia Szeto
 Dec 23 Collin Roberts
 Dec 27 Joan Scott
 Dec 31 Joyce Andrews

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



Magnificat
 A concert of sacred music presented jointly by the choirs of

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 a.m.
 Epiphany Lutheran Church
 2375 GA 20 SE
 Conyers, GA

Sunday Dec. 15 at 11:00 a.m.
 Stockbridge Presbyterian Church
 4740 N. Henry Blvd.
 Stockbridge, GA



The PNC continues to meet on a regular basis and the process is moving forward thoughtfully and prayerfully. We are so appreciative of all the responses from our CAT listening sessions. Between the 3 we had 77 people in attendance and no one was counted more than once. Your answers will be a very big part in how we identify and select our next pastor. Please continue to pray for the process and each member of the PNC.



Saturday, December 14 from 4 - 8 p.m.
 Drop your children off in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and a movie, while you finish your Christmas shopping.



December is here, and the time is getting shorter for Christmas Baskets! The families will be here Saturday, December 21 to pick up their gifts, so please let Aaron Roberts know ASAP if you will be adopting a child (or children). Contact Aaron at 678-859-2767 (call or text) or email at arob12001@gmail.com. We also need volunteers for the 21st so the morning goes as smoothly and quickly as possible. There are MANY ways to help and they don't all include heavy lifting. Thanks to everyone for your generosity year after year and Merry Christmas!



We were so happy to see everyone who was able to come and fellowship with us at our 110th Anniversary celebration. Stockbridge City Councilman Alphonso Thomas presented Rev. Betsy Turner with a commemorative plaque (on the left) in honor of our anniversary. Long time members and friends, Mabel White and Carolyn Francis enjoyed visiting with one another. (right) It was a wonderful time of celebrating our past and also a time to look forward to our future with excitement. Thanks to all who attended.

a word from... Ward

(To the tune of Deck the Halls:) "Tis the time we work the hardest, Fa, la, la, la, la. La la la la." Indeed we do, and Advent already started this past Sunday with the children singing "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" from Godspell with our own Lexie Buchan on the flute. Then, on December 8, the choir travels to Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers, where we combine with their choir for a rather extravagant program of holiday music. A week later, on December 15, the program comes to SPC. On December 22, our kids return to do a number of seasonal carols. Please come to hear our kids and our adults this special season as we worship via the music of the season.



Dear Church Family,

Advent is here, and Christmas is coming! The Christmas tree is up in the Sanctuary (thanks to Aaron Roberts and several former SPC youth!).

The choir has been hard at work on special music, especially the Magnificat service to be performed here at SPC on December 15. The poinsettias are coming this week (thank you, church, for supporting community service by buying this year's plants from a leadership/service organization I belong to, Junior League of DeKalb County). Enclosed or attached to this newsletter, you will find an Advent devotional guide – one scripture and theme word for each day from now until Christmas.

It's a busy season, and a season rooted in old traditions. We put up the same well-worn decorations, repeat beloved family traditions, listen to and sing the same old songs, and cook up the familiar menus and recipes. And of course, the whole season is centered around telling the old, old story of Jesus' birth.

But in the midst of all that tradition and history, we tend to forget that this season is really all about newness. There is literally new life – a child is born! There is new hope – the savior comes to proclaim a new kingdom of justice and peace. There is a new understanding of God – the eternal one, the Word, is made flesh and dwells among us. And because of all that, because of one born in Bethlehem, there is a new claim on our lives, and an invitation to new, grace-filled way of life.

In his Celebrating Abundance: Devotions for Advent, Walter Brueggemann writes, "The whole tenor of Advent is that God may act in us, through us, beyond us, more than we imagined, because newness is on its way among us. We may be visited by a spirit of openness, generosity, energy, and the force may come over us, carry us to do obedient things we have not yet done, kingdom things we did not think we had in us, neighbor things from which we cringe. Advent is preparing us for the demands of newness that will break the tired patterns of fear in our lives."

So this season, I will be making my traditional batch of a family recipe called Great-Grandmother's Tea Cookies, which dates back even further than name implies. But I will also be trying some new things. I hope to experience this same old season in a new way, to let the story touch me differently and more deeply, and to make myself open to the newness that is breaking in among us this Christmas. I hope you'll do the same, and that we can do that together throughout this season.

Grace and peace, this season and always,

Betsy

P.S. Here's the recipe for the cookies.

Great-Grandmother's Tea Cookies – Cream 1 cup butter and 1 cup sugar. Add two eggs, one at a time. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla. Sift together 2 teaspoons baking powder and 2 cups flour.

Add flour to butter mixture, mixing to make soft dough. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, until the cookies have a nice golden edge. Makes about 4 dozen.



UPCOMING SERMONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Dec 8 Second Advent
Brief Prayer Service,
followed by Advent
Workshop and
Fellowship
Mark 1:1-9 | Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-20
John 1:1-14
"A Child Is Born!" |
| Dec 15 Third Advent
Special Music Sunday
"Magnificat" presented
by SPC and Epiphany
Lutheran choirs | Dec 29 First Sunday
in Christmas
Isaiah 63:7-9
Matthew 2:13-23
"The Weary World
Rejoices" |
| Dec 22 Fourth Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25
"Child of Love,
God-With-Us" | |

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BEADLE

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Dec 8 | _____ |
| Dec 15 | Jim Beisner |
| Dec 22 | Jason Howard |
| Dec 29 | Monica Coutin-Baxter |

LITURGISTS

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Dec 8 | _____ |
| Dec 15 | Jim Beisner |
| Dec 22 | Jason Howard |
| Dec 29 | Monica Coutin-Baxter |

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Dec 8 | _____ |
| Dec 15 | Aaron Roberts |
| Dec 22 | Monica Coutin-Baxter |
| Dec 29 | Paul Szeto |

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec 8 | No Children's Church |
| Dec 15 | No Children's Church |
| Dec 22 | Stephanie Dunn/Diana Taylor |
| Dec 29 | The Szeto Family |

SESSION MINUTES

Stated Meeting - October 22, 2019

Clerk's Report:

Communications:

The Session received a letter from Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Mission thanking SPC for One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of \$79.20.

The Session received a letter from The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Commitment Committee offering to speak to the Session concerning where the money we give to the Presbytery is used.

The Consent Agenda was reviewed.

Betsy gave an update to 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.

The Pastor Nominating Committee presented an update on their activities.

The Elder Nomination Committee presented an update on their activities.

Resources Committee:

September 2019 financial statements were reviewed.

Witness Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Discipleship Committee:

No issues or recommendations.

Pastor's Report:

Betsy expressed her appreciation for the notes and cake for Pastor Appreciation Day.

New Business:

The Session approved moving the congregation meeting and communion from 11/3/19 to 11/10/19 as Betsy will not be available to moderate the 11/3/19 meeting, nor serve communion.

The Session discussed updating the church website. Jeffrey will start making small changes to the website and the PNC will provide input in respect to the pastor search.

Jeffrey and Aaron volunteered to conduct the annual church financial audit before the November Stated Session meeting on 11/19/19.

The Session discussed the information needed to complete the 2020 missional budget and agreed to provide this information to Jim by 10/31/19.

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. Witness Committee has taken the lead on the luncheon.

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

SESSION MINUTES

and Betsy Sierra concerning putting together the listening sessions. No new update.

Kim discussed progress on pictures for the church directory. She needs assistance during the picture shoot. Dates will be forth coming. The pictures are moved into 2020.

Special Meeting - September 8, 2019

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Our Daily Bread" and Chapters 3 of "Neighborhood Church".

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

Betsy's synopsis of the CAT audit was discussed and how to disseminate the information to the congregation.

The PNC gave an update on when the listening sessions were going to be: 10/23/19, 10/27/19 and 11/3/19.

Betsy stated she would be off on Nov 3rd and will work with the PNC and Session on a service that will assist with the listening session for CAT audit results by having a shorter service. More to come on that.

The Session voted Aaron Roberts and Kim Seal as commissioners from SPC to attend a called meeting by the Presbytery on 10/24/19.

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 24, 25, & 26. AND JANUARY 1, 2020.



Thornwell Home for Children Fuzzy Tree Collection

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.



We are so thankful to Mt. Bethel UMC and Mt. Zion UMC and their support for our Joseph's Pantry ministry. We receive food donations throughout the year from both churches.

Their generosity and commitment to our community is invaluable to this ministry.