



# JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 AM AA Mtg. Happy New Year! (Office Closed)	2 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	3	4
5 Communion Sunday (Terry Holmes)	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 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	10	11 9:00 Elder Training
12 9:00 Witness Kick-off Event 11:00 Elder Ordination & Installation (Laura Richardson)	13 7:00 AA Mtg.	14 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	17	18
19 (Carolyn Francis)	20 MLK, JR Day Office Closed 7:00 AA Mtg.	21 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	24	25
26 (Sue Scheer)	27 7:00 AA Mtg.	28 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 7:30 a.m. AA Mtg. 5:00 G&G 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 AA Mtg.	31	

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- Jan 3 Marie-Anne Coutin-Baxter
  - Jan 3 Mitchell Stanley
  - Jan 10 Alex Seal
  - Jan 10 Jane Rutledge
  - Jan 11 Peggy Chase
  - Jan 13 Ward Gaily
  - Jan 16 Betsy Sierra
  - Jan 17 Greg Lathrop
  - Jan 20 Suzie Wharton
  - Jan 25 Brad Richardson

**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



In December a few of our ladies visited with these four lovely ladies, Bettye Cochran, Peggy Chase, Sara Moseley, and Anne Watson. They have a combined total of over 135 years of serving SPC. Their prayers, love, and support continue to strength our church.



The Witness Committee is having a 2020 Kickoff Event on Sunday, January 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, starting with a continental breakfast. We'll be discussing the events we are planning for 2020 and ways you can get involved. The Witness committee coordinates all the mission and fellowship opportunities at SPC, so there are many ways to help. Everyone is invited!



Please continue to pray for the process of finding a new pastor and each member of the PNC. We are meeting weekly to discuss our progress. We also would like to thank Rev. Betsy Turner for extending her time here at SPC.

a word from . . . Ward

Where do I begin after such a wonderful Christmas? The choir out did itself. We started planning this Magnificat last June when Don Harris of ELC invited us to join together to deliver a choral masterwork during the Christmas season. We met many times and planned for hours. Our people were models at punctually, even showing up early. Jeffrey traveled from his new home in Kennewaw and Jill and David from Covington, without complaint. We had multiple rehearsals at both locations. It all panned out.

The children also distinguished themselves. Our adults did a splendid job on three additional selections on Christmas Eve, two from the big program and a new carol to boot. I am constantly amazed by the love and dedication of our people, parents, and friends. Special thanks to Arlene at the oboe and husband Greg for his fixing so many things. Also, thanks to Betsy for her excellent editing, cookie brigade, and Linda Hodges for her office help. Thanks to Monica for covering for me and Gena for her hard work at the keys.

Finally, I want to encourage anyone who wants to sing to come visit a rehearsal in the new year. We do need more singers. There is no obligation.

 The new year is a great time to get more involved at SPC. Please join us!

- There are two Sunday School classes that meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Come and check them out.
- Goodness and Groceries meet on Wednesdays during the school year at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This group pack groceries and write notes of encouragement for students in our community.
- The Women's Bible Study is held on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. Hope to see you there.

 In the past your support in paying the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta per capita was greatly appreciated. The Session is again asking for your support with per capita in 2020 by providing a gift of \$27 per SPC member. Thank you.



Friends,

As we come into the year 2020, I'm thinking a lot about vision.

At the optometrist's office, 20/20 means perfect visual acuity – it's an indicator that the eyes are healthy and able to focus well, and you can see at 20 feet what they expect you to be able to see at 20 feet. For me, I'm deeply thankful for my strong glasses or contacts prescription that enables me to have that 20/20 vision, because otherwise I would be stumbling around pretty blind. I know many of you wear glasses or contacts for far away or readers for close up, or bifocals for both, or have had cataract or other eye surgery, or struggle with eye troubles or disease. For many of us – perhaps most of us! – 20/20 vision is simply not our reality.

For the church, of course, the question is not about how well our eyes can focus, but how well our minds and hearts are focused on what we say, mean, intend, and do – or, more importantly, what we believe God is saying, meaning, intending, and doing in our midst.

Among the papers I've unearthed in the church office is a document from 2012 entitled "A VISION for Stockbridge Presbyterian in 2020." It's about where you thought, hoped, and envisioned you as a church would be in 2020 – that is, NOW: "By 2020, we want to be the church in Henry County where people turn when there is a gap in their life that needs to be bridged or a need in the community that needs to be met." The tangible steps to reach that vision were:

1. To reach out to visitors and people in our area and be a caring community;
2. To get involved in a local outreach program;
3. To help children, youth, and adults who are not here yet experience Jesus Christ through our dynamic worship;
4. To connect with the community through non-member programs in our building;
5. To cultivate a spirit of gratitude and generosity, in which all respond to Jesus Christ by giving of time, talent, and treasure to God's mission.

I wonder what you think about that vision set 8 years ago. What can you check off as a "job well done" and where have you fallen short of the vision? How do you think you've done on those mission goals? How clear is this vision? Is this still the vision for 2020? What about beyond – for 2025 or 2030? What "glasses" do we need – what adjustments are needed in what and who and how we see? Are these still the mission goals, or have new ones arisen? What is God up to in our midst?

Your new session (Lee Hart, Terry Holmes, Gene Ingram, Arlene Lathrop, Stephanie Phillips-Ayoola, Aaron Roberts, Kim Seal, Paul Szeto) will prayerfully consider this document again at elder training this month, and I invite you to share your thoughts with them and with me.

Blessings in 2020,

Betsy

**UPCOMING SERMONS**

- Jan 12** Isaiah 42:1-9  
Matthew 3:13-17  
"Baptized! For what?"
- Jan 19** Psalm 40:1-11  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
"Too Light of a Thing"
- Jan 26** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23  
"Focusing on Foolishness"



Our coat closet is up and running! Folks are utilizing it and your generous donations are making a difference in our community. Thank you so much!



If you have a prayer need you can write it on the tan prayer cards located in the pews and place in the offering plate or email to Peggy Chase at pchase111@comcast.net. You can also contact the church office. If you include an address a prayer card will be mailed.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**BEADLE**

- Jan 12** Laura Richardson
- Jan 19** Judy Simmons
- Jan 26** Ron Scheer

**LITURGISTS**

- Jan 12** Laura Richardson
- Jan 19** Carolyn Francis
- Jan 26** Sue Scheer

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

- Jan 12** John Dunn
- Jan 19** Aaron Roberts
- Jan 26** Monica Coutin-Baxter

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WORKERS**

- Jan 12** Greg Lathrop
- Jan 19** The Szeto Family
- Jan 26** The Roberts Family

**SESSION MINUTES**

**Stated Meeting - November 19, 2019**

**Clerk's Report:**

Communications:

The Session received a letter from the Presbyterian Historical Society requesting a gift from SPC.

The Session received proclamation from Councilman Alphonso Thomas for the 110th anniversary of the founding of Stockbridge Presbyterian Church. The proclamation was delivered by Councilman Alphonso Thomas during worship on 11/17/19.

The Session received the 2020 Presbytery Support Worksheet from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

The Consent Agenda was reviewed.

Betsy gave an update 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.

Aaron and Jeffrey gave a report on the November Presbytery meeting.

**Resources Committee:**

October 2019 financial statements were reviewed.

**Witness Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Discipleship Committee:**

No issues or recommendations.

**Pastor's Report:**

Betsy talked about a doing a Blue Christmas healing service during the advent season. The Session approved with the service being on 12/22/19.

**New Business:**

Annual Elder training will be tentatively conducted on January 10 and 11, 2020.

Aaron and Jeffrey will review 2019 Session Minutes.

Kim will review membership rolls.

Kim reported to the Session with the names of members to be dropped from the rolls: Erin Freeman, Payton Scott, McKenzie Scott, Tony Williams, Pearl Williams, and Penny Harrison. The Session approved pending letters being sent to the individuals and cross reference of financial records.

**Old Business:**

The Pastor Nominating Committee presented an update on their activities. (Attachment VII)

Betsy gave an update 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. Betsy met with Betsy and Mary Carol. They suggested SPC come to schools to meet the teachers and counselors.

**SESSION MINUTES**

Betsy discussed options for updating and revising the church website. Jeffrey gave an update on his progress on revising the website. Jeffrey feels he can have a revised web site completed by 1/20/20.

**Special Meeting - November 10, 2019**

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Our Daily Bread" and Chapter 4 of "Neighborhood Church".

Betsy 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 led a discussion on Chapters 4 of "Neighborhood Church" with Session members describing passages they felt important.

Stephanie made a motion and seconded by Terry to have a Parents Night Out on 12/14/19 consisting of crafts and things for member's children and grandchildren in the Fellowship Hall from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The Session approved the motion.

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

**Congregation Meeting**

Rev. Betsy Turner called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. She opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum of 10% of members present.

The first order of business was to elect Elders to the Class of 2020 and 2022. Gene Ingram, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced his committee members as follows: Sue Sheer and Linda Roberts, Gene related to the congregation that the committee not only prayerfully considered the suggestions presented by the congregation but also closely reviewed the church rolls seeking individuals who felt called to service as an Elder utilizing their time and talents. The following slate for 2020 was presented: Stephanie Phillips Ayoola and 2022, Arlene Lathrop and Lee Hart. Betsy asked if there were any nominations from the congregation. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The above slate of candidates was elected unanimously.

The second order of business was to present the 2020 Church Budget which was approved by the Session at a stated meeting on October 22, 2019. Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session, discussed Resource Committee's decision to continue to use a missional budget (Attachment I) that would demonstrate how the church's financial resources would be allocated to support the adopted strategic plan's six (6) areas (fellowship, worship and music, building use, congregational nurturing, radical giving and community outreach). He further explained that each item which included staff salaries, from the operations budget was placed into one of these 6 areas.

The purposes for which this meeting was called having been accomplished, Rev. Turner closed the meeting with prayer.