

**Stated Meeting - February 25, 2020**

**Clerk's Report**

Communications:  
 The Session received a letter Presbyterian Mission thanking SPC for the \$70.00 Joy Offering.  
 The Session received a letter from Rev. Tim Echols, Vice-Chair, Public Service Commission inquiring if SPC is willing to sponsor a discussion on anti-Semitic behavior. Which would include a Jewish Rabbi.  
 The Consent Agenda was approved.  
 The Session received and approved the SPC 2019 Annual Statistical Report.  
 Jim provided an update on the SPC 2019 Annual Report.  
 The Session approved the 3rd draft version of the Officer Handbook with revisions to be added when needed.

**Resource Committee**

The Session approved a bid for a sign to be placed on Burke Street not to exceed \$1,300.  
 The Session reviewed the January 2020 financial statement.

**Witness Committee**

No issues or recommendations.

**Discipleship Committee**

No issues or recommendations.

**Pastor's Report**

Betsy discussed inclement weather notification procedures. Session members to contact their Undershepherd Lists to communicate variations to scheduled events.  
 Betsy discussed Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday with a schedule for congregation members to be with her between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

**New Business**

Resources Committee proposed pursuing electronic giving. The Session discussed and approved electronic giving with a target implementation of May 1, 2020.

**Old Business**

The Pastor Nominating Committee presented an update on their activities. 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. No new information.

**Special Meeting - February 9, 2020**

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss readings in "Our Daily Bread" and "The Changing Landscape of the American Church".  
 Betsy selected a reading from Ezra, Chapter 3 and discussed the impact of it on her. Further discussion by members of the Session followed.  
 The Session reviewed the Ministry Information Form created by the Pastor Nominating Committee. After discussion a motion was made to accept the MIF with one addition and approved.

Betsy led a discussion on "The Changing Landscape of the American Church" with Session members describing passages they felt important.

Resources Committee made a motion to allow the Boy Scouts to use the pavilion on February 8, 2020 as a collection point for local units to bring their Scouting for Food donations and on Monday evenings monthly for planning troop activities starting February 3, 2020. The Session approved the motion. This request was concurred by the Session via email vote on January 29, 2020.

The Session agreed to move the March called meeting from 3/8/2020 to 3/1/2020.  
 Betsy mentioned she will be gone on Sunday 2/23/2020 and 3/8/2020. There will be a singing service on 2/23/2020 and a guest preacher on 3/8/2020.

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



We are now able to accept on-line giving on our website at [www.spcusa.org](http://www.spcusa.org). Just click on the Give tab at the top of the home page and it will walk you through the steps. You can also set up an app on your mobile devices. There is an instruction sheet included with this newsletter and a question and answer resource for donors. You can also mail your checks directly to the church. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Apr 1 Ken Day	Apr 23 Amara Pass
Apr 4 Kaitlyn Buck	Apr 25 Joel Bryant
Apr 9 Annie Laura Kelly	Apr 27 Lee Hart
Apr 11 Cynthia Weekes	Apr 27 Megan Wells
Apr 13 Ian Turner	Apr 30 Betsy Turner
Apr 14 Jacob Ingram	
Apr 22 Phyllis Howard	
Apr 22 Savannah Sewell	



If you purchased an Easter lily, we'll make sure it's safely delivered to your house. Happy Easter! Christ is risen!

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

<b>Discipleship</b>	<b>Witness</b>
Aaron Roberts (20)	Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (20)
Paul Szeto (21)	Arlene Lathrop (22)
Terry Holmes (21)	Lee Hart (22)
<b>Resources</b>	
Gene Ingram (21)	
Kim Seal (20)	



**The Church At The Bridge**

Dear Church Family,

As you know by now, we will not be meeting for worship or other church activities during the month of April, due to the Covid-19 coronavirus. This is the most faithful thing we can do right now, our best way of being good neighbors to one another, our community, and the world.

But it is hard. These are hard and surreal moments for all of us. Months ago, or even a few weeks ago, we could not have imagined what we are living through now – the terror of a highly contagious and frighteningly dangerous virus, long days and weeks of self-isolation, and a veritable fire hose of stories and information from all across the country and the world. It's overwhelming, and anxiety-producing, and exhausting... at least from where I'm sitting (at home, trying to lead and pastor all of you, and parent and teach our three small children!).

To be honest, I can't quite wrap my head around being apart for so long, and especially the reality that we will not observe Holy Week together. I'm working on resources for us to observe Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday at home... but it's still hard for me to picture.

But here is where I am finding hope in these hard days: Spring! It has sprung with its signs of new life and promise (and yes, pollen). My azaleas, dogwoods, and wisteria are all gorgeous right now. My fig tree, which I planted during another trying time a few years ago, is leafing out, and I'm hopeful that all the buds means we might even get fruit this summer. All the green and new life makes me feel hopeful.

Good stories! In with all the terrifying statistics are good stories of hopeful outcomes. Just this week, I saw stories of a 101-year old in Italy, a 103-year-old in Iran, and 103-year-old in China, all diagnosed with Covid-19 and now recovered. The curve is flattening in some places, because of the broad efforts in both testing and isolation. That doesn't take away the very real fear nor negate the serious statistics around this virus, but it's heartening to see these hopeful stories.

Heroes! I'm so inspired by the doctors, nurses, other health professionals, and scientists working so hard against this disease and for those who are sick, suffering, and dying. I'm also inspired by the teachers and school systems who are providing all new curriculum on the fly, meals for students who depend on them, and other services for kids and families during these school closures. And there are many other good things happening – if you look, I'll bet you can find a story of kindness, generosity, or compassion. And if you can't, then you can BE that story for someone with a small act of kindness.

**Stockbridge Presbyterian Church**

4740 N. Henry Blvd., Stockbridge, GA 30281  
770-474-7777

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor

The church is doing new things! On every level (SPC, our Presbytery, the wider PCUSA denomination, and the whole church) this new situation is inviting creativity and flexibility, which is not always something the church is particularly good at. We're worshipping, meeting, communicating, and caring for one another in new and different ways – wow! We're learning new ways to be the church, and I hope these lessons will reinvigorate the church and the kingdom in these days and the years ahead.

Speaking of doing church in all new ways, I will be sending out Holy Week materials so that we can all observe these holy days at home. It will be different, certainly, but I trust that the Spirit will move among us during this Holy Week, and perhaps bring new meaning to this story. It's a story of great loss and triumph, deep friendship and deep isolation, fear and hope. In many ways, it is the best story we could delve into during this time of Covid-19, another reminder of Christ's solidarity with us and our ultimate hope.

Friends, on the harder, lonelier, and darker days, the days where I miss you and "normal life" the most, I like to envision the day when we can safely gather once again. There is a day coming when we will emerge from this dark season and our tombs of isolation, full of new life and exuberance. So my plan is for that day, whenever it is, is that we will celebrate Easter – with plenty of alleluias, and flowers, a joyous celebration of the Lord's Supper, and I hope a grand potluck lunch. It will feel so good to be together again, and I promise that we will pass the peace for as long you want to. Picturing that day gets me through my harder moments. I can't wait! (But I will wait until it is safe!)

This is certainly a time of anxiety and stress, uncertainty and fear. There is much grief, and we may be facing more as this virus makes its way through our communities and into our circles. It is okay to feel however you are feeling about all of this. But you don't have to carry those feelings alone. It's very good to reach out to share those feelings with someone. Your church family and your pastor stand ready to help, just a phone call away. Gathering is cancelled for now, but our care for one another and our commitment to be the church with and for one another is never, ever cancelled. The Spirit is alive among us, thanks be to God.

Stay in, stay in touch, stay generous!

Peace,  
Betsy Turner

**SPC SPOTLIGHT**