

Tentatively Scheduled Drive-Through Event
February 14

We will be collecting items for the staff unit we have just adopted at the hospital (K-cups, snacks, travel-sized lotions, and other items) and handing out a Lenten package.

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	4 Office Closed	5	6 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	7 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	8	9
10 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	11	12	13 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	14 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	15	16
17 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	18 MLK, JR Day Office Closed	19	20 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	21 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	22	23
24 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom 11:00 am Live Worship with Communion	25	26	27 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	28 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	29	30
31 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship						



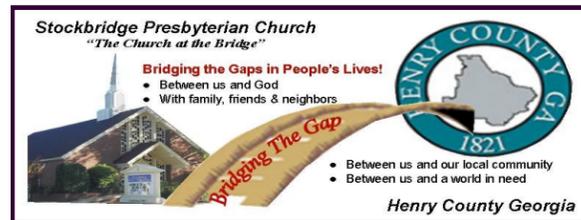
- Jan 3 Marie-Anne Coutin-Baxter
- Jan 3 Mitchell Stanley
- Jan 10 Jane Rutledge
- Jan 10 Alex Seal
- Jan 11 Peggy Chase
- Jan 13 Ward Gailey
- Jan 16 Betsy Sierra
- Jan 17 Greg Lathrop
- Jan 20 Suzie Wharton
- Jan 25 Brad Richardson

THE SPC SESSION
Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

Discipleship
Aaron Roberts (20)
Paul Szeto (21)
Terry Holmes (21)

Witness
Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (20)
Arlene Lathrop (22)
Lee Hart (22)

Resources
Gene Ingram (21)



The Church At The Bridge

SPC Family,

Happy new year! I know for a lot of us, we are happy to see 2020 go and welcome what we hope will be a better year. I'm certainly praying for a year of healing and hope.

It is also a year of transition – hopefully with the Covid-19 vaccine, we will be transitioning out of pandemic and into a new normal (see our Reimagining Task Force blurb to the right of my column)... our country will be inaugurating a new president soon... and this church will be welcoming a new pastor in the months ahead (be praying for your Pastor Nominating Committee in their search, and see their update on page 2 in this newsletter).

One new year tradition that has become meaningful to me in the last few years is choosing what some call a "Star Word." In fact, usually I let the Spirit choose a word for me – either through a colleague who is distributing names or a word generator like this one: <https://www.wordoftheyear.me/> It's just a word to carry with you throughout the year. What I have found is that the word often feels strange when I first receive it, but comes to have layers of meaning as I reflect upon it through the year. At our January 3rd drive-through event, I handed out star words, and there are plenty more to go around - call or email me and I can randomly draw you a word that will hopefully inspire you in 2021. I'll be eager to hear what you think about your word, and how God might speak to you through it in the year ahead.

Grace and peace for the new year,
Betsy



A wonderful conversation is happening every other Thursday within our church and our extended family. It involves the issues of race and racism. We are currently reading *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby. The book gives insight to the church's role in race relations throughout American history, and our sometimes half-hearted attempt at solving racial injustice. It has been a rich conversation where we are all learning a lot. In January, we will be meeting on **Thursdays, January 14 and 25 at 7:30 pm**. Please join us, contact Betsy or the church office to join the group. All voices are needed.

John Dunn



We are pleased to announce we have been awarded a Diaconal Grant from the Presbytery in support of our Goodness and Groceries ministry. G&G is a very important ministry here at SPC, and this money will go a long way in continuing this out-reach program.

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

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

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor

Reimagining Task Force

Friends,

Your Covid 19 Task Force has been diligently reading and studying Covid 19 information and statistics in order to inform the decision making processes of our church leadership. As you know, there has been a dramatic increase in new cases in the month of December. For example, in Henry County there were 741 new cases between December 7 and December 14th. This categorizes Henry County as having "uncontrolled community spread." We urge you to continue to follow the "Ws"-Wear a mask, Watch your distance, Wash your hands. We further encourage you to avoid gathering in groups.

However, there is hope on the horizon! All of us on the Task Force have been watching the development of the vaccines and reading the science behind them. Each one of us is eagerly awaiting our opportunity to take a full vaccine. It is our hope and prayer that each of you will consult with your trusted medical professional and do the same when you become eligible.

We understand that vaccination is a very personal decision. Just as we have followed strict guidelines to keep others out of harm's way, vaccination will offer us yet another way to protect not only ourselves but also vulnerable community members such as children or those who are immune compromised. We also understand that not everyone will be eligible for vaccination for months to come.

We all yearn to gather for worship together again. We believe that the vaccines will enable us to do this as more and more of us are able to receive it.

With hope and thanksgiving,
SPC Covid 19 Task Force

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Stephanie Phillips Ayoola | Gene Ingram |
| Jim Beisner | Jack Shedd |
| Jeffrey Cochran | Betsy Sierra |

**Per Session action, and mindful of the community spread of Covid-19, we will not gather in person for the months of January and February. Look for drive-through, online, and other opportunities to "stay in, stay in touch, and stay generous" while we are the church apart.

Ways to give. Give on-line, below is a link to donate to SPC. You can also mail your checks to the church. Please contact the church office if you wish to bring your donations by. Hours are limited due to the building's condition.



Opportunities to Worship

- Jan 10 Recorded Worship
- Jan 17 Recorded Worship
- Jan 24 Zoom Worship/Communion and installation of Elders
(Information to join the Zoom Worship is below in Communion Online)
- Jan 31 Recorded Worship

Recorded worship will be available on the website (spcusa.org), Facebook (Facebook.com/StockbridgePres), or listen by phone at 857-385-7514.



Join us on Sunday, January 24 at 11:00 am on zoom for a live worship and communion (via computer/device or by calling in by phone, see information below). It will be livestreamed to Facebook and available on our website and call in number afterward. Remember you will be preparing your elements for the communion part of the service.

If you have not been able to join us for the monthly worship services on Zoom but would like to receive at-home communion, please contact Betsy Turner (678-642-9810, SrockbridgeInterim@gmail.com) and we will arrange a time for a visit by phone to share this sacrament.

Elder installation

At our congregational meeting on December 20, the Nominating Committee presented their slate of 2 people to serve as elders in 2021. Stephanie Phillips-Ayoola and Aaron Roberts were unanimously elected to 1-year terms. This will be Stephanie's 5th consecutive year and Aaron's 4 consecutive year serving on the Session, and we give thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve. Installation of these elders will take place during worship on Jan 24, will be held via Zoom and streamed to Facebook.

YOU ARE
NEEDED.

Committees Need Your Help!

We need YOU on our committees! Please consider volunteering your time and energy on one of our standing committees this year. All our committees are working on projects for this current Covid situation as well as imagining and planning for in-person events when we can more safely gather. And we need your ideas, efforts, and energy - whether you can serve in an ongoing capacity or on a project basis, please find your way to plug into one of these areas:
Discipleship - this committee works with worship and education, and are working on services and programs for the current Covid situation as well as the transition to in-person nurture of SPC disciples.
Resources - this committee manages finance, stewardship, building and grounds, and personnel. If you have an interest in how the

A Word from Ward



We have had a good, but vastly different Advent and Christmas season. Circumstances caused us to reinvent ourselves. Betsy had an excellent idea for us to record solos and ensembles of favorite holiday offerings which we did. I want to thank the following talented folks for their musical contributions during this season: Sandra Martin, Terry Holmes, Monica Andrea, Marie Anne, and Maxwell Coutin-Baxter, Sophie and Claudia Szeto, Linda Roberts, Laura Richardson, and Jeffrey Cochran, Ian and Betsy Turner. Further thanks go to parents Thomas, Monica, Paul, and Janna for facilitating in-home rehearsals, etc., and to Greg for his technical prowess. Also, I want to thank my dear wife Lin for assisting me. Finally, Merry Christmas to all with great anticipation for the time we can again reunite physically.



Greetings from your Pastor Nominating Committee! It has been a busy year for us, despite not being able to meet in person since March. We meet at least twice a month via Zoom, and in between we are reviewing as many potential pastor resumes as the Presbyterian headquarters can send us. When they don't send enough, we pester them to get more. We take the time to review and discuss each resume, and if possible, we listen to these candidates' sermons and research them on the internet. Using Zoom, the PNC has even met some potential new pastors who were very fond of SPC. We are constantly moving forward to find a permanent pastor, but we are doing it with great care to find the right person for SPC. Thank you for your continued prayers and we'll be back to work again immediately after 2021 begins. Please contact Kim Seal or Aaron Roberts with any questions or concerns.

Building Update

As you have no doubt heard, our church building had a burst pipe and some pretty substantial water damage just after Christmas. We are working with our insurance and moisture mitigation company to begin the recovery. Please stay away from the building, for your own safety and so that you do not interfere with the ongoing work. If you need something at the building, please make arrangements with Linda Hodges in the church office, Gene Ingram, or Betsy Turner. Voicemail, mail, and email will be checked regularly.
 A big thank you to Stephanie Phillips-Ayoola, Paul Szeto, and Jason Howard who responded on the day of the leak, and Gene Ingram who has coordinated the recovery in the days since. The construction phase lies ahead, on an unknown timeline. Your Session will be discerning together about what kind of opportunity this opens for us to reimagine and repurpose spaces that have to be repaired/redone anyway. However, if we have learned nothing else in 2020, it's that the church really isn't (and never was) the building. The church is the people, the body of Christ at work in the world. The building is a simply a resource entrusted to us to be used for God's mission - a place to gather (when we can do so safely) and a launching pad from which to serve. So, we will tend to our building as faithfully as we can, and in the meantime continue our fellowship and our mission!

(continued)

church works and shaping how we use the resources God entrusts to us, come join us!
Witness - this committee covers fellowship and mission (or what we might call "inreach and outreach"). If you are interested in how we connect within the congregation and how our congregation connects and serves in the community, this is the place for you.
 If you are interested in any committee, please contact Betsy Turner (678-642-9810 or StockbridgeInterim@gmail.com) or any member of the Session.



Christmas Baskets have been a huge event for SPC for many years past that many of our members have looked forward to being a part of this gift giving to our schools and their families. This year was a bit challenging, as the schools have only a portion of the children attending in person classes and school admins weren't sure of which families would actually needed assistance. Witness Committee brainstormed for weeks and the idea was brought forth to bring a little joy to the children at The Mill. This is the community we have partnered with for the annual Kid's Camp.

When we reached out to the property manager at The Mill to see if we could make this happen, she was in tears at the thought of this being a possibility for the families. In the past, there were different groups that would drop off toys at her office, providing one or two items per child, and rarely enough for each child to receive a gift appropriate for their age. We wanted to make sure this Christmas was a bit more personal for these children, so a decision was made that SPC would present each family a \$75 gift card for each child, so the families would be able to go themselves to find the perfect gift for their little ones. Allotting \$75 per child for 67 children put us in the position to deplete our Christmas Basket funds. We look forward to starting early in 2021 to build the funds back up for this account for next Christmas.

As we arrived a little early to The Mill on December 12th, families had started arriving to receive their envelope and for us to let them know what was actually in the envelope. These families were very thankful for the gift they were receiving and were excited to go and shop for their little ones. As we were driving away, I could only think of how the wisemen may have felt when they brought forth gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gift giving isn't about the value of what we give, but the gift of sharing our heart as well as God's goodness. On Christmas as we wrapped gifts for our own loved ones, I pray you remembered the precious gift God shared with us many years ago, the little baby boy in a manger named Jesus!

Merry CHRISTmas to you and your loved ones,
 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola
 SPC Witness Committee



New Mission Project!

Covid hasn't stopped us from doing good in our community! We have recently adopted a staff unit at Piedmont Henry hospital. Hospital chaplain Tynika Baker-Isaac has invited local churches to show support to these front-line workers, and we are proud to be among the first churches to sign up to adopt a unit. She is calling this program A.D.O.P.T. for "Always Diligently Outreaching People Together."

We will be working with the Transporter Unit, a wonderful staff of 19 people who are an often under-appreciated but integral part of the hospital, tasked with safely moving patients from place to place. These are the folks who push your wheelchair or gurney from ER to room to testing areas and out to your car when you are ready to go home. They often walk up to 8-10 miles per 8 hour shift, just getting people from place to place! We have already delivered a Keurig coffee maker and pods to the Transporters' break room, along with a crate of snacks, which we will keep filled as a show of support to these wonderful workers. Look for a wish list prior to our next drive-through on February 14 - we will be collecting cards and posters, as well as coffee supplies, individually-packaged snacks, and other treats.



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 2021 by providing a gift of \$27 per SPC member. Anyone who wishes to offset this cost is of course welcome to do so.

Session Report

Special Meeting

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to address issues that affect Stockbridge Presbyterian Church caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Session approved the following minutes of previous called meetings: 10/25/2020

Committee Reports

Resources: Kim discussed the October financial statement. Kim mentioned a large gift from a member that impacted income for the month.

Discipleship: Aaron reported the committee continues looking at Advent activities including the drive-up Christmas Eve worship service in a church parking lot. Betsy suggested planning should start on how the 11/29/2020 advent drive thru will be manned.

Witness: Stephanie and Betsy provided an appraisal on the drive thru event conducted on 11/1/2020. The committee continues to explore different approaches for this year's Christmas Basket ministry. As of now the committee is looking at conducting an event for residents of The Mill trailer park. Details still need to be identified and worked through.

The church received information on timing for loan forgiveness applications for the Paycheck Protection Program. Ameris Bank has prioritized the loan application process and will notify SPC when to submit our application.

Stephanie reported the Elder Nominating Committee has one person that agreed to serve as an Elder with no additional information. The committee will meet on Tuesday 11/17/2020.

Gathering for Worship

The Session approved no activities at church facilities through December 31, 2020 except for drive thru event on 11/29/2020, activities to record and prepare for Advent and the drive-up Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm on 12/24/2020. The task force will revisit this matter at their next meeting paying attention to whether the number of Covid-19 cases are rising in Georgia and Henry County.

PNC: Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC is meeting at the end of November.

Paul reported the church video has not been completed due to the videographer contracting Covid-19. Paul hopes to contact him this upcoming week to reschedule the shoot.

Aaron updated the Session on technology improvements being considered including the purchase of a FM transmitter.

Betsy updated the Session on the conversation on race discussions, adult Sunday School and Kid's Bible Study.

Betsy is using the regularly schedule Wednesday night zoom on 11/25/2020 as a get together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Betsy also discussed initial thoughts on conducting a drive thru event on 1/3/21. She asked for volunteers to participate in a Christmas zoom program.

The Session approved a proposal from the PNC requesting approval to conduct candidate interviews in the church facilities when required.

The Session approved to hold a Christmas Eve drive up worship service on 12/24/2020 at 4:00 pm. The service will be in our North Henry Blvd. parking lot, and every attendee will remain in their vehicles for the duration of the service.

The Session approved allowing additional outdoor events with plans for the event to be presented to the task force for review and recommendation to the Session.

Session Business - The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 12/6/2020 at 3:00 pm to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

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