



MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	3	4	5 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	6 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	7	8
9 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	10	11	12 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	13 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk	14	15
16 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	17	18	19 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	20 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 DAY OF PENTECOST 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom 11:00 am Drive in Worship 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	24	25	26 2:30-4:30 pm Betsy's Office Hours (in the pavilion) 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship	27 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk	28	29 2:30-4:30 pm Betsy's Office Hours (in the pavilion)
30 10:00 am Adult SS via Zoom 11:00 am Drive in Worship with Communion Rev. Betsy Turner's last service	31 Memorial Day (Office Closed)					



- May 1 Kirubanithy Mani
- May 10 Susanna Sierra
- May 11 Brad Pass
- May 14 Lynne Bailey
- May 17 Erika Moxley
- May 17 Justin Stanley
- May 22 Terry Holmes
- May 26 Peggy Beisner
- May 26 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola
- May 26 Laura Richardson
- May 30 Annetta Harper
- May 30 Marida Lin

THE SPC SESSION

Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

- Discipleship**
- Aaron Roberts (21)
 - Paul Szeto (21)
 - Terry Holmes (21)

- Witness**
- Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (21)
 - Arlene Lathrop (22)
 - Lee Hart (22)

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

SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge



Great news! Your Pastor Nominating Committee has completed its task! We are so excited to announce that our new full-time pastor will begin work at Stockbridge

Presbyterian on June 1 (pending Presbytery approval and a congregational vote). This person has many wonderful qualities, and we know our new pastor will be a blessing to SPC and the community around us.

Make plans to join us on May 23 for a drive-in worship at 11:00 am followed by a congregational meeting at 11:45 am. In that meeting, we will present information about this new pastor, and the membership will vote to extend a call. We will offer Zoom access to this meeting for anyone who cannot attend in person, but if you can, please be there in person!

With our new pastor starting at SPC on June 1st, we will be saying goodbye to the Reverend Betsy Turner, who has served as our interim pastor for the last 2 ½ years. Betsy's last day will be Sunday, May 30th. Make plans to attend drive-in worship (with communion) at 11:00 am, and look for more information about how we can say goodbye, thank Betsy, and celebrate our time of ministry together. Betsy has prepared us for this next chapter in the life of SPC, which begins June 1st with our new pastor.

Our new pastor's first Sunday will be June 6, where we will also have a drive-in worship service, so you can see and meet the new pastor in person! Details of this service are still being worked out, but we'll update you when we know more.

We cannot express how excited we are about our new pastor! While we can't tell you more about the individual until May 23, please know that our committee after all our hard work and looking at lots of potential pastors, we unanimously agree that God has called this excellent person with the right skills and gifts for SPC. We can all look forward to greeting our new pastor on June 1st!

-Pastor Nominating Committee:
Annetta Harper, Terry Holmes, Aaron Roberts, Kim Seal, Paul Szeto



Your Covid team continues to review the Community spread of Covid-19 - we're watching the numbers, including the vaccination progress statewide. We feel hopeful about being able to provide some new opportunities for gathering soon. For that to happen, we will need your compliance with protocols, as well as good volunteer support to help with set-up, ushering, disinfecting, and more.

We encourage you to seek a vaccine if you haven't already. They are scientifically tested, safe, and effective, and getting yours is an act of service to our community - we can each love our neighbors by seeking a vaccine, if eligible. (Of course you should talk to your own doctor if you need more information.) Continue those safe protocols, stay safe, and we hope to see you soon!



Congregational meeting for the purpose of:

- Receiving a report and recommendation from the Pastor Nominating Committee
- Voting on the call and terms of call for the next installed pastor



- May 2** Recorded Worship
"Choosing Bold Over Mild" ~Matthew 5:13-16
- May 9** Recorded Worship
"Choosing Frontier Over Fortress" ~selections from Act 8
- May 16** Recorded Worship
"Choosing Now Rather Than Later" ~Mark 1:14-15
- May 23** Drive-in Worship (recorded version will also be available)
Congregational meeting will be held at 11:45 am, immediately following drive-in worship. Zoom link will be provided via email for those who wish to join remotely, But we encourage you to intend in person if possible.
- May 30** Drive-in Worship with communion
(recorded version will also be available)
Last Sunday with Rev. Betsy Turner
- Jun 6** Drive-in Worship
First Sunday with new pastor (pending approval on 5/23)

Drive In Worship ♦ in your cars ♦ in parking lot Sunday, May 23 at 11:00 am Rev. Betsy Turner's last Sunday

We will be collecting your offerings and also donations for the Coat Closet and ADOPT ministries. These items will be collected as you are leaving the event. The requested items for the ministries are located on page 3 of this newsletter.

SPC family,

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" -Isaiah 43:19

By now, you've likely heard the exciting news! (If not, check out the announcement from the PNC on the cover of this newsletter.) I cannot tell you how thrilled I am with the work of your Pastor Nominating Committee. I hope you can sense from them how optimistic and hopeful they are about this coming transition and the person God is calling to be your pastor. It is hard across the distance and via technology to really convey what this moment means, and the excitement of this transition, but I hope you can feel it.

I am SO excited for you! As your interim pastor, I have prayed – and will continue to pray – for a smooth transition to the next chapter of this congregation's life. It's been my goal to help you move from what was to what will be, always in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As I begin to think about my departure, what I mostly want to say is what an incredible gift it has been to be your pastor for these two and a half years. You are a wonderful congregation, and it's been a delight and an honor to be your pastor. Astoundingly, fully half of our time together has been during the pandemic – I can't quite wrap my head around that, but I know that I am incredibly blessed to have been your pastor through this extraordinary time.

There will be many moments for further reflections and goodbyes ("see you later's) this month, leading up to and including my final Sunday on May 30th. I look forward to hosting some in-person office hours on Wednesday, May 26th and Saturday, May 29th – on each of those days, I will be in the pavilion 2:30-4:30pm for masked one-on-one conversations. I hope you will make plans to drop by during those windows for a visit. Or, if those times don't work and you want to see me in person, please reach out to me and make a separate appointment – including if you are homebound and would like to see me before I depart. I am fully vaccinated and could come to you for a brief, masked in-person visit.

Indeed, God is doing new things in our midst. Thanks be!

In gratitude and hope,

Rev. Betsy Turner



JOSEPH'S PANTRY

Thank you for faithfully giving to our Joseph's Pantry ministry. Through your generous giving our shelves are fully stocked. We will keep you updated on the ministry needs in upcoming weeks, so please look for those updates.



Our ongoing conversation about race and racism continues every other Thursday evening. We will meet on Thursdays 5/13 and 5/27 at 7:30pm. We have finished our fruitful study of the book *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby, so we will be venturing into other material and thinking about where this group wants to go in terms of Tisby's framework of A.R.C.: Awareness, Relationships, and Commitment.

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.



WORD FROM WARD



By the time you read this, our mixed trio will have met at my Conyers home and recorded a couple of songs soon to be heard online. We have successfully adjusted to the pandemic, but certainly miss the live fellowship. This Saturday, Lin and I will be traveling to Sophie Szeto's school in Hampton to see her perform in *Aladdin 2*. We are so proud of her. At the end of our most recent drive through service on Easter Sunday, my buddy Greg aptly said: "We are getting better and better at doing this." He is so correct. I am so thankful for all the folks who keep singing despite the isolation. We will keep doing it until God calls us back to our building. In the meantime, I want to also thank the task force for keeping you safe.



It's with your kind donations of candy, goodies and love that The Witness Committee was able to pack and deliver 100 Easter Bags full of love to our neighbors at The Mill. As a child, we were always excited to get up Easter morning to find our Easter baskets full of candy, a scribble pad or small toy. We pray the children of The Mill were also excited to open their SPC Easter Bags that were packed with little Christian booklets regarding the true meaning of Easter, along with toothbrush/toothpaste donated by Arlene Lathrop's amazing dentist office, goodies and lots of love.

The Witness Committee is working with the City of Stockbridge to see what permits are required to have "Movie on the Lawn" at SPC, not only for our members but also for our community. The Yard Sale is still on the horizon, as we pay close attention to Covid updates and ensuring we can keep everyone safe. Our committee is steadily working to seek new events to keep us connected as a church family and to connect more with our neighbors. Stay tuned for more updates regarding these exciting events and thank you for your continuous support for all SPC missions.

In love,
Elder Stephanie Phillips Ayoola, Witness Committee Co-Chair



Henry County COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

We have received information that Henry County residents can apply for Emergency Rental Assistance. So many have struggled financially during this time. Please share this information with those in need of assistance.

Contact information: Email - contact@henryrap.org
Phone - 855-436-7926
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 7:30 pm, Saturday 8am - 2 pm



Come be a part of our Wednesday night fellowship! We get together via zoom each Wednesday night - 7:00 pm for kids, and 7:30 pm for church-wide fellowship!



We would love to have you join us! Our Adult Sunday school is meeting via zoom every Sunday morning at 10:00 am.

Session Report

Special Meeting - March 21, 2021

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to address issues that affect Stockbridge Presbyterian Church caused by the coronavirus pandemic and other actions necessary to operate the church.

Christina Toney-Smith from the New Church Development Commission spoke to the Session about the work of the commission and also to give thanks for the gift from SPC.

The Session approved the following minutes of previous called meetings: 2/21/2021

Committee Reports

Resources: Gene presented a short report on February 2021 financials. Gene also reported on not moving forward with hiring a custodian at this time. Jim will investigate using temp services to supply short term custodian assistance.

Discipleship: Aaron reported the committee will meet 3/28/21. The committee will continue to discuss Holy Week and upcoming parking lot Easter worship services. Good Friday worship service will be a 7:00pm on 4/2/21.

Witness: Arlene reported the Witness Committee is assessing donations for the Easter bags being developed for the children of The Mill. Bags will be packed on 3/27/21. Arlene dropped off additional items for the Transporter ministry. The committee is looking into events that can take place outside during the summer.

The church received the Paycheck Protection Program 2 loan of \$16,111.00.

Gathering for Worship

There remains no activities at church facilities through April 30, 2021 except for drive thru events and parking lot worship services. Task force members are looking at what resources will be required to execute worship services in church facilities. The committee discussed the impact of increasing vaccinations on our previous recommendations. It was the consensus that we continue with our original guidance for the time being. 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. The task force encourages church members to receive vaccinations when available. Gene will contact Henry County to make available the church parking lots as vaccination site, if needed. The Task Force recommends that there be no more than six (6) individuals, all masked, under the pavilion at any given time.

PNC: Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. Aaron stated the PNC is more optimistic since revising the MIF where the required experience was revised. They conducted Zoom meetings with 2 individuals last Monday.

Aaron stated the Discipleship Committee will continue analyzing technology needs of the church.

Betsy updated the Session on the conversation on race discussions, adult Sunday School and Kid's Bible Study. Confirmation studies are on hold until face to face meetings are allowed.

Building Update: Gene provided an update on the bid to repair the church building caused by water damage. He discussed additional repairs outside of what the insurance covered and the remodeling of the admin office. The Session approved to move forward with the repairs of the water damaged areas and the remodeling of the admin office. The Session also approved moving up to \$8,000 from donated

funds being held in the Mission Fund to cover costs above the insurance payment.

Pastor's Report: Betsy confirmed with the Session she will be ending her current contract on 5/19/21 with no plans to renew. Discipleship will begin planning for her transition along with how to conduct her farewell event.

The Session approved conducting communion on 4/2/21 during the 7:00 pm Good Friday worship service via Zoom.

Session Business: The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 4/18/2021 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.



COAT CLOSET

The items needed for the Coat Closet at this time:

Socks & T-shirts

You can drop off your donations at the drive-in worship service on Sunday, May 23 or call to arrange a time to drop by the church office..



ADOPT

The Witness Committee has been making bi-weekly trips to Piedmont Henry Hospital to drop off a basket of goodies (individually wrapped items) and cases of water to our Adopted Transporters. It has been reported that the Transporters are very excited when a basket is dropped off and they can't wait to see what goodies are in the basket! We have been told that the Transporters do have access to a microwave, though microwave popcorn is NOT ALLOWED.

Our current inventory of goodies/water/K-Cups is getting low, so please consider making a donation of individually wrapped items such as **crackers, Little Debbie cakes (or the like), instant oatmeal/grits, chips, etc., or bottled water, or K-Cups (coffee/tea/hot chocolate)**. Of course, monetary donations will also be accepted and we will do the shopping for you. The Witness Committee would like to thank you for your support in this very important community mission.

Sincerely,
Arlene Lathrop, Co-Chair Witness Committee

