

# Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*"Home Fields"*

John Singer Sargent

Betty Carter Sunday

August 27, 2017 | 10:00 am Worship

**Greeter**

Anne Stembler

**Ushers**

Scott Risi

Ada Owens

Molly Macaulay

Laurie Longley

**Acolyte**

Margaret Ernst

# Welcome

*Welcome to worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery (located in the children's hall at the rear of the church) is available for children from birth to five years. Worship resources for children are available at the sanctuary entrances.*

## INTROIT

### *Hymn Medley*

*Lyrics are provided on the insert in this morning's bulletin.*

*All are invited to sing along!*

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Bob Brearley

*Please sign and pass the friendship register.*

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE

*Let us now prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

## PRELUDE

arr. Bennett

### *Praise to the Lord*

Amy Bishop, Organ; Beverly Fetter, Piano

Today, we conclude our summer preaching series based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. In worship this morning we explore the biblical understanding of blessing. Next Sunday our worship times will be 8:30 and 11:00 am, and we will celebrate communion at both services.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Stembler

One: Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith. Welcome to the worship of God in this place.

**ALL: We come to celebrate God's presence, and God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.**

One: We come as a pilgrim people searching for ways to live out our faith.

**ALL: God has blessed us with grace and courage, and now we seek to be a blessing to others.**

One: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

## \*OPENING HYMN 839

ASSURANCE

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

\* Please stand if able.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Alan Dyer

Gracious God, Creator and Redeemer, in reverence we bow before you, giving thanks for your love and seeking your grace. Humbly we acknowledge that you have blessed us and called us to be your servants in the world. Yet we confess that we have hoarded more than our share of the world's bounty; that we have failed to witness, by word and action, to the liberating truth of Jesus Christ. In Christ's name, forgive us and grant us a new birth of spirit, that we may be your instruments of oneness and of joy, of healing and of peace, of blessing and encouragement. We bring to you the burdens that weigh upon us and the concerns of our hearts.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

H.W. GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

## WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

BAPTISM

*Jack Folsom Dyer*  
Infant son of Rev. Alan & Erin Dyer

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

Wilson/Schuler

*Make Me a Blessing*  
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Runyan, arr. Raney

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Amy Bishop, Organ; Rhonda Hambright, Piano

Our joys today include the baptism of Jack Dyer as we welcome him into the church of Jesus Christ and pledge to love him always. Also, we thank God for the faithful dedication of Betty Carter as she retires after nearly 30 years of being our church secretary and our friend! We will tell her how much we appreciate her commitment to St. Simons Presbyterian Church at a reception in the Social Hall following this morning's worship. All are welcome!

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**WORD FOR CHILDREN**

*All children please come forward at the pastor's invitation.  
Following the Word for Children, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave for KidZ Worship.*

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Anne Stembler

**Genesis 12:1-3**

*Page 17 OT*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Story/Sorenson

*Blessings*

Chancel Choir; Stephenie Powell, Violin;  
Beverly Fetter, Keyboard; Amy Bishop, Piano;  
Harlan Hambright, Percussion

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Page 1501 NT*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SUNG BY ALL) 287**

*Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.  
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Bob Brearley

An Altar in the World: **Benediction**

*"The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings"*

The refrain of the anthem includes these words:  
"Cause what if Your blessings come though raindrops? What if your healing comes through tears? What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near? What if my greatest disappointments, or the aching of this life, is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy? What if the trials of this life: the rain, the storms, the hardest nights, are Your mercies in disguise?"

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Declaration of Faith

The people of God have often misused God's promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know that our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord!

We respond to the Word proclaimed by affirming our faith with words of a creed spoken in worship, but we truly and authentically respond to the good news of our God by touching the lives of others with a word of encouragement and well-being that is rooted in the peace and justice of Jesus Christ. God bless you as you bless others.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 475

NETTLETON

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Lutkin

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

POSTLUDE

Wagner/Young

*Go With Rejoicing*  
Amy Bishop, Organ

**If You Are New Here.** Whether you are visiting from out-of-town, a seasonal resident, or searching for a church home, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please indicate that on the Friendship Register as it is passed down your pew at the beginning of worship so that we can be in touch with you soon.

**Child Care.** Children of all ages are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery is available for children, birth through age five. The nursery is located in the Children's Wing at the rear of the church.

**If You Are in Need of Prayer.** You may fill out a prayer request card (available in the pews) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

**To Aid in Worship.** A "Rocking Room" with live video of the service is available in the chapel located outside of the front right doors of the sanctuary. Hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals and Bibles may be obtained from the ushers.

**Sermons Online.** To hear sermons online, visit [www.sspres.org/sermons](http://www.sspres.org/sermons).

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

## Mission

### Manna House

*First Monday of every month*

Help prepare, serve, and cleanup a meal for guests at "Manna House," a local soup kitchen ministry.

*Marie Dodd at mariewdodd@bellsouth.net.*

### PAL Mentoring Program

Mentor children in Brunswick elementary schools as part of Positive Adult Leadership (PAL) Mentoring.

*Richard Hathaway at thehathaways2@comcast.net.*

### Habitat for Humanity

Join us for local Habitat for Humanity home construction. Builds happen each fall and winter.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

### Community & Global Missions

Share God's love with service locally and globally. Missions include Angel Tree Christmas Gifts, Hunger Action Team, and summer mission trips.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Children

### Sunday School (Resuming September 3)

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

### KidZ Crew (Preschool to Grade 5)

*Sundays:* KidZ Worship following the "Word for Children" during 11AM worship. (*Pre K-2nd*)

*Wednesdays:* Faith, fun, and music. Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM. WOW supper at 6PM.

### KidZ Fellowship (Grades 3 to 5)

*Monthly on Sundays:* Faith and fun. Meet in the Britt Room for supper at 6PM.

### Chimes and Choir

*Wednesdays:* Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

*Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Youth

### Sunday School (Resuming September 3)

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

### Sunday Night Fellowship

*Sunday evenings in the Youth Suite*

Dinner at 6PM

Mid & Senior High at 6:30PM (Grades 6 to 12)

### Breakfast Devotion (Grades 6 to 12)

*Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A*

Transportation to school is available for middle schoolers.

### Music (Grades 6 to 12)

*Sundays:* Youth Ensemble meets at 5PM in Music Attic

*Meg Johnson at meg@sspres.org.*

## Young Adults

### Faith on Tap

*Monthly Thursday (usually 2nd Thursdays) at 7PM*

A casual young adult Bible Study for 20 and 30-somethings meets monthly. Location varies. Childcare available.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Discipleship

### Sunday School (Resuming September 3)

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

Sunday School classes are available for all ages.

Please come for breakfast and a time of fellowship each week in the Britt Room prior to class.

**Britt Class** - Upper Room

**Come & See** - Social Hall

**Rejoice** - Chapel

**Trinity** - Parlor

*Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

### Men's Bible Study

*Mondays at 12PM in the Britt Room*

Come for lunch and Men's Bible Study led by Alan Dyer every Monday. Visitors are always welcome.

*Thursdays at 7:15 AM in the Britt Room*

Come for breakfast and Community Men's Bible Study led by area pastors every Thursday.

*John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.*

### Ladies' Video Bible Study (Resuming September 14)

*Wednesdays at 10:30AM in the Youth Suite*

Gather for prayer and discussion each week using a video study. All women are invited!

*Gail Ledbetter at gbledbetter@att.net.*

### Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group

*Thursdays at 10AM in the Upper Room (Sept.-May)*

*Gwen Mayberry gwenmayberry@gmail.com or 638-8711.*

### Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles (Resuming in Sept)

All women are invited to join a PW Circle. Circles meet for Bible Study each month.

*Anne Aspinwall at anneaspinwall@gmail.com.*

*Terri Simpson at tsimp57@yahoo.com.*

## Music

### Choir

Choirs for all ages are available. See Children and Youth for graded choir schedule. Adults meet in the Ashantilly wing on Wednesday nights.

### Handbells and Other Instrumentation

Handbells, chimes and instruments are an important part of the music ministry for children through adults.

*Rhonda Hambright at rhonda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

*Suzanne Morrison at suzanne@sspres.org*

## Pastoral Care

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry offers confidential one-on-one Christian care to those experiencing difficult life circumstances.

*Jann Briscoe at jannbriscoe@gmail.com or 269-0212.*

### Pastoral Care

To notify the church of illness, hospitalization, births, deaths, or prayer request, contact the church office at 912-638-2220. If you need pastoral care after hours please contact one of our pastors.

*St. Simons Presbyterian 638-2220*

*Rev. Bob Brearley at 912-399-5957*

*Rev. Alan Dyer at 937-623-7963*

*Rev. Jann Briscoe 912-269-0212*

# Thank you Betty!

This Week | Aug 27 - Sept 2

For nearly 30 years of faithful service as our church secretary!

Please join us for a reception honoring Betty Carter in the Social Hall following worship!



## NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Starting Next Sunday, Sept 3



8:30 AM  
**Chapel Service**  
Sanctuary



9 - 11 AM  
**Coffee & Fellowship**  
Social Hall



9:30 - 10:30 AM  
**Sunday School**  
Various Locations



11 AM  
**Traditional Service**  
Sanctuary

## Youth Beach Kick-Off

TONIGHT 7 PM

Snyder Beach Cottage  
646 Beachview Drive

### Today, Aug 27

- 8:30 am **Morning Prayer** - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am Breakfast/Joint Sunday School - Social Hall
- 10:00 am **Worship** - Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Reception for Betty - Social Hall
- 12:00 pm Children & Youth Volunteer Training - Youth Suite
- 7:00 pm Youth Beach Kick-off - Snyder Beach Cottage

### Monday, Aug 28

- 12:00 pm Men's Noonday Bible Study - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

### Tuesday, Aug 29

- 7:00 am Youth Breakfast Devotion - Chick-fil-a

### Wednesday, Aug 30

- 4:00 pm KidZ Crew & Choir - Veranda
- 6:00 pm WOW Supper - Social Hall
- 6:15 pm Summer Missions Report - *during supper*
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers - Bell Room
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Thursday, Aug 31

- 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Britt Room
- 10:00 am Instrumental Ensemble - Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm Free Flow Yoga - Youth Suite
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room

### Friday, Sept 1

- 10:00 am Book Discussion & Prayer - Jann's Office

**Chancel Flowers:** The Chancel arrangement this morning is given to the glory of God in loving honor of Betty Carter, whose retirement from serving as our loyal & dedicated church secretary for the past 30 years is being celebrated today! Thank you Betty for all that you have done for us!

**WOW Supper Menu (Aug 30) // RSVP online or call the office!**

Chicken-n-dumplings, peas, salad, rolls, dessert

*KidZ Friendly Menu: Chicken tenders, mac-n-cheese, oranges*

To Ponder Prayerfully

# Getting Close to God

“**P**RONOUNCING A BLESSING PUTS YOU AS CLOSE TO GOD AS YOU CAN GET. TO LEARN TO LOOK WITH COMPASSION ON EVERYTHING THAT IS; TO SEE PAST THE TERRIFYING DEMONS OUTSIDE TO THE BAWLING HEARTS WITHIN; TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE TOWARD THE OTHER, HOWEVER MANY TIMES IT TAKES TO GET CLOSE; TO OPEN YOUR ARMS TO WHAT IS INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL IT IS WHAT IT SHOULD BE; TO SURRENDER THE JUSTICE OF YOUR OWN CAUSE FOR MERCY; TO SURRENDER THE PRIORITY OF YOUR OWN SAFETY FOR LOVE – THIS IS TO LAND AT GOD’S BREAST.”

— Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

*Ministers: All members of the church*

**Rev. Bob Brearley**  
Co-Pastor  
[bob@sspres.org](mailto:bob@sspres.org)

**Nat Scott**  
Congregational Life  
[nat@sspres.org](mailto:nat@sspres.org)

**Rhonda Hambright**  
Music Ministry  
[rhonda@sspres.org](mailto:rhonda@sspres.org)

**Jeannine Torbert**  
Administrator  
[jeannine@sspres.org](mailto:jeannine@sspres.org)

**Judy Cauley**  
Preschool Director  
[judy@sspres.org](mailto:judy@sspres.org)

**Rev. Alan Dyer**  
Co-Pastor  
[alan@sspres.org](mailto:alan@sspres.org)

**Frieda Warner**  
Children’s Ministry/CE  
[frieda@sspres.org](mailto:frieda@sspres.org)

**Amy Bishop**  
Organist  
[amy@sspres.org](mailto:amy@sspres.org)

**Walter Lynn**  
Building Coordinator  
[walter@sspres.org](mailto:walter@sspres.org)

**Leslie McCracken**  
Clerk of Session

**Anne Aspinwall**  
Chair of Deacons

**Rev. Jann Briscoe**  
Parish Associate  
[jannbriscoe@gmail.com](mailto:jannbriscoe@gmail.com)

**Meg Johnson**  
Youth Ministry  
[meg@sspres.org](mailto:meg@sspres.org)

**Suzanne Morrison**  
Handbells  
[suzanne@sspres.org](mailto:suzanne@sspres.org)

**Caroline Kittle**  
Communications  
[caroline@sspres.org](mailto:caroline@sspres.org)

**Al Ledingham**  
Treasurer



*St. Simons Presbyterian Church is a member of the Savannah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.*

205 Kings Way | St. Simons Island, GA 31522 | 912-638-2220

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