

Gathering



Sharing



Growing



Serving



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 51

August 10, 2017

There is a quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer that has always spoken to me. "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others," he said. "Not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men [and women!] of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."

So while no church is perfect - sorry, not even ours - I do hope you will join me in recognizing and celebrating those times when we bend ourselves a little further in the direction of helping, serving, and existing for others both in our community and in our world. Several examples from just the past few months are fresh on my mind and I want to make sure they are on your minds and hearts as well. Since June, among other things, members of all ages from our congregation have...

- Helped to dedicate three new Habitat for Humanity homes;
- Traveled to Charlotte, NC for experiential learning about issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness;
- Served our neighbors at Manna House in Brunswick;
- Helped to reestablish a longstanding partnership with Montanà de Luz, which is a loving home for children living with HIV/AIDS in Honduras.
- Hosted nearly thirty youth and adults from congregations in North Georgia and Atlanta who came to participate in a week of service and learning as part of the BRIDGE Mission Program.

These are all worthy of giving thanks to God! As a pastor, it fills my heart with joy to serve alongside a congregation of people seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. And yet, just as it did not begin with any of these things, the work living for Christ does not end here either. So whether it be with your church, your family, or on your own, I hope you will join me in rededicating ourselves to *being the Church* - love your neighbor, serve the stranger, exist for others!

Peace,



Wednesday NIGHT activities

resuming August 30



KidZ Crews & Choir

4 - 6 PM // Veranda

Preschool-5th grades



WOW Supper

6 PM // Social Hall

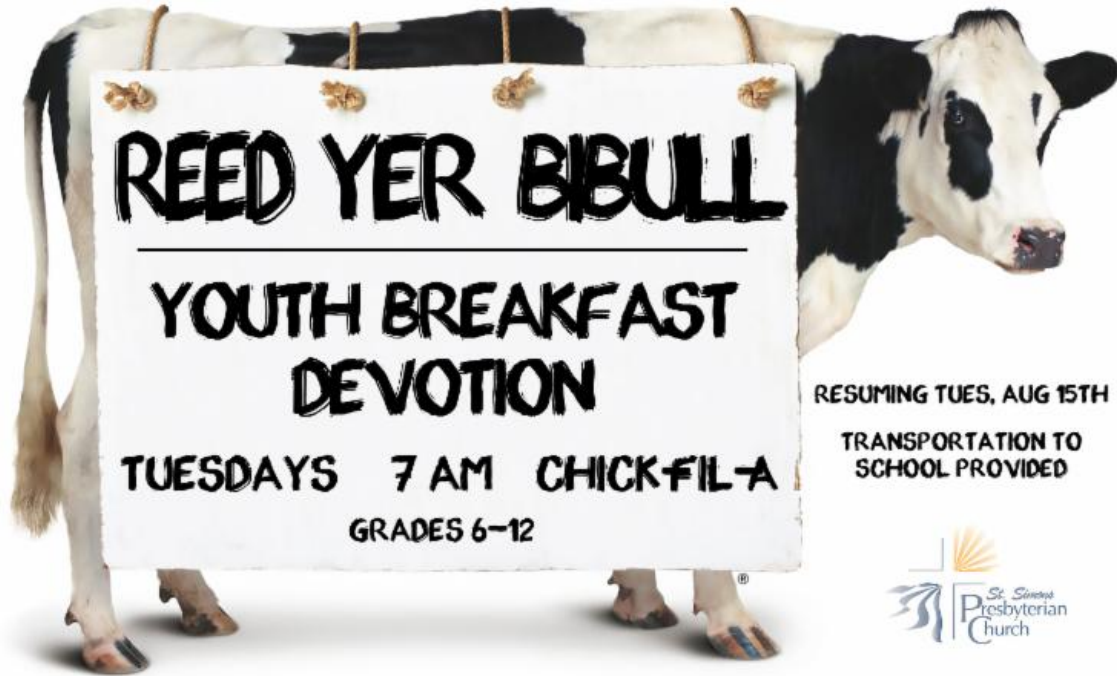
Adults (13+) - \$8 | Kids (5-12) - \$5 | Family Max - \$20



Summer Mission Report

During WOW Supper on the 30th

Report of Summer Missions (Honduras, CROSS, BRIDGE)



Children & Youth

Volunteer Sign Up!



Have you thought about being a volunteer for the Children & Youth Programs at SSPC? Now is the time to say YES!

Through my years at SSPC, I have had the opportunity to be a volunteer in every age group...from the nursery up to high schoolers. Every experience was a blessing to me. In fact, some of my closest relationships at church are with the now grown up "toddlers" I once had in Sunday School. Sharing my time and my faith with the children at church has enriched my own spiritual

journey beyond words!

So when asked if you want to volunteer, the best response would be in the words of Isaiah, "Here I am, send me!" You will not be disappointed! :) Please prayerfully consider volunteering for the following program areas and events. We need both male and female, adults and youth (6th grade and up).

To ensure the safety of our children and youth, a mandatory (but brief!) Volunteer Training is scheduled for August 27 at noon (if you cannot attend this training, an alternative time will be arranged).

Frieda Warner
Director of CE & Children's Ministry

[Click Here to Sign Up today!](#)

Celebrating Betty!



Love offering contributions can be made anytime throughout the month of August!

August 27th is Betty Carter Sunday! Come and join with us as we celebrate Betty upon her retirement, and thank her for being our church secretary since 1988! For thirty years Betty Carter has lived out a deep and abiding commitment to God's calling in her life to help St. Simons Presbyterian Church. We could never thank her enough for being there for us. **On August 27 we will have a reception in the Social Hall at 11:00**, immediately following our morning worship service.

We will read to Betty a resolution of thanks from our Session, present to her a love offering for her retirement, and invite words of affirmation and love from our church members. If you would like to contribute to this offering, please make your checks to SSPC & mark them "Betty Carter."



The Week Ahead

calendar

2017

Sunday, August 13

- 8:30 am - Morning Prayer - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am - Breakfast/ Joint Sunday School - Social Hall
- 10:00 am - Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:15 am - Membership Ministry Team Meeting - Youth Suite
- 5:00 pm - Marsh's Edge Worship - Marsh's Edge

Monday, August 14

- 9:00 am - Congregational Life Retreat - 646 Beachview Drive
- 12:00 pm - Men's Noonday Bible Study - Britt Room
- 5:30 pm - Diaconate Meeting - Upper Room
- 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - John Law Room
- 8:00 pm - AA Meeting - Britt Room

Tuesday, August 15

- 7:00 am - Youth Breakfast Devotion - SSI Chick-fil-a
- 5:30 pm - Session Meeting - Upper Room

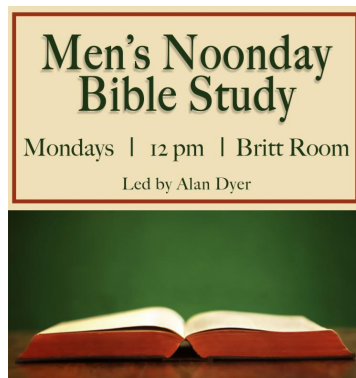
Thursday, August 17

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

Friday, August 18

- 8:30 am - DAR Convention - Throughout facilities
- 10:00 am - Book Discussion & Prayer - Jann's Office

Click for More Information About Upcoming Events



Prayers and Thanksgivings

[Click here for the Weekly Prayer & Meditation | August 13](#)

Thank you to our Manna House Volunteers!

On Monday, our faithful group of volunteers served a meal to over 200 people in our community. Thank you to the following people for giving up their time to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in need: Chris Pippart, Evelyn Butler, Martha Martin, Martha Collette, Joe Wills, Jennifer Matheson, Martha Champaigne, Kathy Cathey, Frances McCrary, Jack Hartman, Mike Aspinwall, Matt Hodgdon, Charlotte & Bill Lueckel, Jann Briscoe, Laura O'Callahan, Lynda Bisher, Dan Pentecost, and Bob Brearley. If you are feeling called to serve, please join us next month on Monday, September 4th!

Worship This Sunday

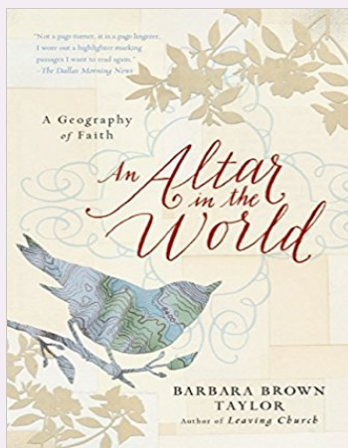
Scripture: **Job 1:1-3, 6-12** | **Luke 22:39-46**

Hymns: **804 - Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!**
 807 - When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

Preacher: **Rev. Bob Brearley**

Summer Sermon Series:

"An Altar In The World"



Throughout the summer, our pastors are leading a summer sermon series called, "An Altar In The World." Barbara Brown Taylor's book by the same title - *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* - is our guide as we explore how and where God is at work far beyond the four walls of the church. This book will also guide our joint summer Sunday School classes. If you would like to read the book along with us please feel free to buy a copy online ([click here](#)) or pick up one of the copies that are available to purchase in the church office.

This Sunday: Breakthrough - "The Practice of Feeling Pain"

Musical Notes

As much as it can be our friend, letting us know that something is wrong with our bodies, pain is never a welcome guest. It changes us and colors our days, preventing us from living more fully. Ruth Duck, well-known in theological circles for her liturgy and writings, wrote the words to yet one more new hymn that we will sing on Sunday - When We Must Bear Persistent Pain, hymn number 807 - It's set to the tune PROSPECT which is the hymn tune we know as "The Wild, Lone Bird." Reading the note below the hymn, you become aware that Ruth suffered debilitating migraines and wrote these words that reflect her experience. Some people walk around with chronic pain and never let on that there is anything wrong. I'm often surprised when I learn about these people that never utter a complaint, but suffer terribly on their own time. My cousin is one of these. He recently had an operation that was long overdue and was in quite a bit of post-operative pain. Going stir-crazy cooped up in his house, he ventured out to the local jiffy mart to get supplies in his t-shirt, pajama bottoms, and his bedroom slippers. Leaving the store, he was approached by an old man standing at the door holding a small dog. The old man with long hair, a beard, and dressed shabbily asked him if he was in pain. Alan (my cousin) said, "yes, I am." The man asked if he could pray for him. Now, bear in mind that Alan darkened the doors of a church when he had to - family weddings and funerals. Not that you have to be "churched" to pray, but prayer was a rare occurrence in his life. This time, he said, "Sure," as the man laid his hands on Alan's head and prayed. After the man had finished, he told Alan that he would wake up in the morning pain-free. Sure enough, the next morning he woke up and the pain was gone and still hasn't come back! Later, Alan went back to the jiffy mart and looked for the man. The cashier said that none of the employees had ever seen the old man until that day and they haven't seen him since. Alan went on to his job as editor of the town paper that day, believing in prayer and angels. This is a true story. We should always pray for those in constant pain, physical or mental.

This Sunday, hymns are: 805 Rejoice! Ye Pure in Heart! And 807 When We Must Bear Persistent Pain.

Special music will be provided by Kelly Johnson. She will be singing an arrangement of "There is a Balm in Gilead" by Mark Hayes. A soprano in the choir, Kelly came to us last year with a beautiful smile and a joyful heart for singing. She and her husband Bart moved here from Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is the general manager of the Hilton Home 2 Hotel by the airport. She is currently working in the school system with the CEIS team assisting with behavioral interventions throughout the county. Kelly studied voice at Western Carolina University where she participated in choir and ensembles, and a summer mission music group. She has sung in choirs her whole life.

Bluegrass Sunday is next! Get ready to sing about prayer!

On Saturday, August 12, at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on St. Simons, there will be a memorial for Joe Justin Walters. He was a friend and colleague of mine for many years and well-beloved in the community. There will be a community choir, solo performances from friends, and his daughter Susan and granddaughter Cassidy will play a movement from a Brahms piano and violin Sonata.

Love & Gratitude,

Rhonda