

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC



The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church Newsletter / May Issue 2018
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Return Service Requested

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 YOGA	2 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 Elder Training 7:30 Chancel Choir	3 SOPC Quilters	4 RELAY 4 LIFE 6:45 Lanterns 11:00 CWU	5 Oliver Gospel Mission
6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Pre-Confirmation	7 4:00 Congreg. Care, Children 5:30 Good News, B & G, Admin. Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship, Worship,	8 7:00 YOGA	9 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 Elder Training 7:30 Chancel Choir	10 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	11 6:45 Lanterns	12
13 Mother's Day 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 12:15 Cookies for Mom	14	15 7:00 YOGA	16 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 Elder Training 7:30 Chancel Choir	17	18 6:45 Lanterns 6:00 Kids Night Out	19 9:30 New Members Class
20 Pentecost 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Church Luncheon	21 7:00 Session Meeting	22 7:00 YOGA	23 12:15 Chair YOGA 3:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Elder Training 7:30 Chancel Choir	24	25 6:45 Lanterns	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers	28 Church Office Closed 	29 7:00 YOGA	30 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 Elder 7:30 Chancel Choir	31 		

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Criss Gray
Office Manager
sopc@sopc.net

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children
and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa.org/misionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2018 - Session
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Ed Keelen - Christian Ed.
Ron Kesterson - B & G Chair
Polly Robinson - Worship
John Whitfield - Missions

Class of 2019 - Session
Pat Byrne - Congreg. Care
Marty Hilyer - Missions
Kathy Keane - Christian Ed.
Ken O'Mellan - Fellowship
Jim Taylor - Good News
Jim Wilhide - Clerk

Class of 2020 - Session
John Jones - B and G
Jeanne LeBoeuf - Care
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganeli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Trustees
Guy San Fratello
Janice Reiser
Lucretia Seigler



What is Pentecost?

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday. With the Spirit of God being poured out upon the church, the church is marked as 'different' in the world by 4 distinct traits.

- **The Presence and Power of the Spirit is at work in and through us as God's people. This shapes who we are and how we act in every aspect of life.**
- **The Central Role of the Church in God's Work in the World means that we as people of Christ are called to be imaginative in how the church lives into this 'central role'.**
- **The Multilingual Nature and Mission of the Church means that God's church extends well beyond worship on Sunday. We are called to be looking for ways to reach others in the mission of the world.**
- **The Inclusive Ministry of the Church means that the Spirit gives us the ability to look beyond our own beliefs and appearances. As the church we are called to be inclusive of all for the good of God's Kingdom here on earth.**

It is these traits, gifts from our Lord, that give us the courage, strength, and stamina to be the church with all whom we meet, within and outside the walls.

Happy Pentecost!

We invite you to hear what we believe as Presbyterians and have the opportunity to ask questions on Saturday, May 19th from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We would like to welcome you the following day for worship on Pentecost Sunday to join as members in Christ's ministry.

GET PLUGGED
NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Please join us for lunch following Sunday worship!



Dear Church Family,

A couple of years ago, it was brought to our attention that the organ of Seven Oaks, our greatest asset other than the land and buildings we own, needs extensive repair. It was thought best at that time to wait until a new leader was called into SOPC, before beginning these repairs. The time has come.

Session, at our March meeting after receiving several bids and debating to what extent we need to repair, voted to pursue an organ renovation of \$150,000 so that the music ministry here at Seven Oaks can continue to grow and be a vibrant part of ministry into the community.

This is not the only decision session made, however. As a church, we currently have a mortgage of \$160,000 on the beautiful use of the fellowship hall. This is wrapped into our annual budget and is something we are already paying down each month as funds become available. Session voted to enter into a 'Debt Free in Three' Campaign to pay off both the organ and the building fund.

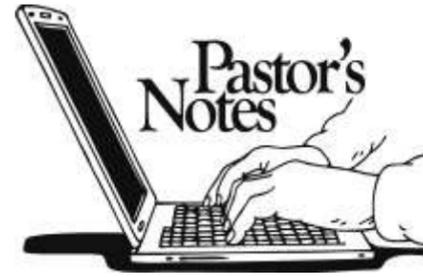
Why? The organ is part of a larger plan for God's church. The ultimate vision for God's church here at SOPC is that we will live into our mission statement of 'Loving our neighbor, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ' and our vision statement of 'Serving the world by creating disciples of Jesus Christ'.

As session has met over the past months, we have been in prayer over the mission and purpose of SOPC as a vibrant community of faith that God is continuing to shape. Many of the prayers and possibilities for us to be a living, breathing church in the community are only partly possible given our current circumstances. To be a church that is debt free, however, means that we can embark on new possibilities and 'What If's' that are even right now waiting for us to pursue.

To this greater end of God's ministry, we are beginning a 6-month focused fund-raising campaign lasting through Sept. 30, 2018. This drive will be to specifically raise funding for the organ so that we do not have to borrow any funds. In Presbyterian polity, however, we will hold a congregational meeting on June 10th to get approval to borrow funds, should we need to temporarily borrow.

Organ repair work will not begin until January, so we hope that we will not have to borrow anything at that time. We have already raised over \$12,000 from individuals without asking for organ funds so there is significant desire to complete this project. We cherish one-time donations at this time, if you are able. Some families will be able to give more, some will be able to give less. But we are all called to be good stewards of God's church, and we invite you to evaluate anything you can give, whenever you can give, particularly over the next 6 months, with longer term giving over the next 3 years.

Rev. Jana Creighton
Elder Fred Holbrook
SOPC Session



I'd like to take a moment to remember the drama of Pentecost with you. This day marks the power of the Holy Spirit creating and shaping the church into something new. Pentecost for us is not a bunch of folks dressed up in robes standing around a birthday cake with one candle flame. Pentecost is a life altering, sometimes overwhelming change that is *even now* happening to God's church. As the book of Isaiah reminds us, our God is *even now* doing a new thing in our midst. I'm grateful to be a part of that church, nestled in the promise of God, given courage by the life of Christ, and given strength by the Spirit.

As many of you know I recently returned from continued education in Montreat, NC where I spent two brief, packed days of learning in the midst of God's Holy Space. I'm grateful for all I learned on the topics of evangelism, staffing, and leadership among other pastors, indeed. But more importantly I'm grateful for the gift of opportunity among you to practice what has been learned and to continue to grow together with one another. Your awareness of feeding the pastor so that she may feed the Word of God to you is a gift. Thank you for being the church of God, practicing the gift of the Spirit. As we head into this Holy day, I invite you to come prepared in your Red, Orange, and Yellow clothes. These colors represent the fire that is *even now* flaming in each of us, God's church.

May the Spirit fan the flames of your hearts and passions at Seven Oaks.

Thanks Be to God!
Jana Creighton



A heartfelt thank you for the cards, calls, food and especially all of the prayers that sustained Clyde through his long illness and your continued prayers are helping me during this difficult time. I am truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family,

Anne Crook

To our friends at 7 Oaks,
Thank you so much for sharing such lovely arrangements with us at Presbyterian Community. Flowers brighten our lives and lift our spirits in a unique way. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Anne Waltz

Below is an email message from a FP graduate who now has permanent housing and a good job as a clinician at the Dept. of Juvenile Justice.

"I want to express my thankfulness to the Family Promise Staff, Board of Directors, Host Coordinators and Volunteers who contributed to my job search journey, whether it was through praying for me, job leads, encouragement, motivation, or one-on-one preparation. Everyone played a big part in my success. When I felt overwhelmed and on the verge of accepting anything below my skill set, that's when the support and the love of Jesus came rushing to me from everyone.

A special thanks goes to my Caseworker...for providing stellar case management and the website where I found my job....The salary, leadership, work schedule and compensation package is what I have always desired as a Social Worker and Counselor....Overall God gets the glory, and I'm blessed to have a community of supporters from Family Promise that have stood by me."

There are many ways to help our neighbors who are experiencing a housing crisis through the Family Promise ministry. If you would like to know more or become involved, please talk to Marty Hilyer, Tish Lowe, or Robert Miller



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is an ecumenical group providing charity for local missions in the Columbia area. The annual May Friendship Day will be at SOPC on **Friday May 4**. Please help us collect Health Kits for charities. There will be a worship service in our Sanctuary. At 11:00 am

Registration is at 10:30 a.m. In the Fellowship Hall

Each health kit should include 6 full size items: one each—regular size toothpaste, regular size toothbrush, a full size bar of soap, wash cloth,

hand towel and comb. Place the 6 items in a gallon size Ziploc bag. You may place your completed kits in the box in the Mission Room. Contact Shelagh Wirth, 629 7851 or swirth@sc.rr.com with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support of this much needed ministry.



- 2 Margaret Royals
- 5 Sarah Park
- 6 Ken Watkins
- 8 Kent Phillips
- 9 Linda Floyd
- 10 Jonathan Park
- 13 Terry Clark
- 14 Marsha Phillips
- 17 Buddy Wilson
- 18 Nancy Taber
- 19 David Will
- 21 Zach Noë
- 23 Marjorie Claytor
- 24 Lloyd Pilkington
- 25 Sue Kesterson
- 25 Roni Klemick
- 30 Nancy Humphreys

FELLOWSHIP - *Ken O'Mellan, Chair*



**We will have a
Congregational Luncheon
on Sunday, May 20th.**

BBQ - Potato Salad - Cole Slaw
Baked Beans- Rolls - Dessert
\$6 / Adult \$3 / Child
\$20 Family Max (5+ Members)



LANTERN'S MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

We meet Friday morning's at 6:45 a.m. with great fellowship, prayer time, laughter, coffee and light "breakfast". We have a regular group of 10-12 men who gather for an hour or so on Fridays, we have room for more to join us. Here's how you can help grow our numbers. Join us for 3-4 Fridays in a row, and by then you will have formed a new good habit. Next, spread the word and tell your friends about Lanterns and encourage them to join us. Often we have more men there from other churches than we have from Seven Oaks. All are welcome. Come share this wonderful, fellowship time with Lanterns.

God's Peace.



THE THIRD MONDAY LADIES LUNCHEON

We will not meet for lunch in May but look for some exciting news and details about our next luncheon in June in next month's Leaf!

SESSION NEWS

At its last Stated Meeting on April 23, your Session...

1. Approved sponsoring a Scout Troop for girls as presented in a recommendation from Jerry Hilbish.
2. Learned that Rev. Creighton will be on vacation from May 26 - June 5.
3. Learned that Rev. Odell will be on vacation May 7 - 14.
4. Learned that women from Monday Morning Bible Study baked over 1,000 cookies for Kairos prison ministry.
5. Approved a program called Strengthening Families at Seven Oaks Elementary School that works on parenting skills and families to use Fellowship Hall for their graduation on May 22.
6. Approved a Task Force to discuss and recommend issues on a neighboring house.
7. Heard about the many projects and activities of our Presbyterian Women.
8. Approved the baptism of Charlotte Pilkington on June 24.
9. Learned that the Thornwell Supervisor for Building Families Program is now sharing a classroom as an office setup with Lex/Rich District 5 program as previously approved. We are encouraged to welcome them to the campus with their ministries..
10. Approved Lex/Rich District 5 ESL program using two classrooms through June, M/W/Th 9-12 & 5-8pm.
11. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting on June 10 for the purpose of obtaining approval to borrow up to an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for pipe organ refurbishment and that a positive vote of 2/3 or greater be required for this motion to pass.
12. Approved Mark Wishart as our Elder Commissioner for the Trinity Presbytery meeting on May 5.
13. Learned that the approximate cost for our new signage will be \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00.
14. Prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or sadness in recent days.
15. Learned that Dunbar Funeral Home has donated the reserved seating signs to the church.
16. Received a prospective landscaping design for the courtyard.
17. Elders were reminded about the work day which is scheduled for May 12.
18. Nominated Pat Byrne, Ron Kesterson and Jeanne LeBoeuf as Red Cross Disaster Relief representatives and back-ups in case of the need to utilize the facility during or after disasters.
19. Learned there will be a BBQ Church luncheon on Pentecost Sunday to welcome new members to the life and vision of Seven Oaks.
20. Examine and reviewed policy and procedures for each committee and stood in prayer and discernment over the promising future of Seven Oaks.

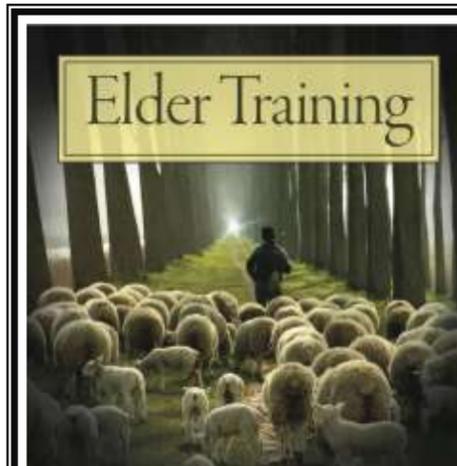
Jim Wilhide,
Clerk of Session

BUILDING AND GROUNDS - *Ron Kesterson, Chair*



**WORK DAY
at the
CHURCH**

A work day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12, 2018**; plans include a major kitchen clean, pressure wash of mold on exterior surfaces, clean chairs, brush pick up, some sod laying and shrub replacement, and some others items depending on participation.



All Elders and elders elect for the year 2021 are invited to elder training each Wednesday night in May- June 6th from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now! Dinner will be provided, learning will be had, and your gifts will blossom as you prepare to lead the church in the way it should go! We give thanks to the elders for your leadership, wisdom and willingness to hear the call of God!

CHRISTIAN ED.- Ed Keelen, Chair

Vacation Bible School
TRAVEL TO

Babylon
Daniel's Courage in Captivity

June 25th - June 29th
9:00am-12:30pm
Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
3 years old - completed 5th Grade



•Special needs children are always welcome but a parent will need to attend to help with accommodations.
•3 year olds must have completed 3K and be potty trained!

Register a child or as a volunteer online:
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/sopcvbs>
Or call the office:
803-772-1761



We need
Volunteers!



We will have a table at the Chapin Relay for Life event! Calling all Children, Youth, young adults, and young at heart! We need you to come out and help us raise money for Relay for Life on May 4th! Please let Michaela know if you will be attending!



Calling all Mothers! Join the children on Sunday, May 13th immediately following the service as they host "cookie for mom". The children will spend the morning baking cookies to honor all the mothers and Mother figures here at Seven Oaks!



Parents Night Out! Join us for a joint JAM/Parents night out on May 18th! We will spend the evening preparing for Pentecost and learning the Pentecost story. We will be serving dinner, this event is \$5 per child with an \$8 cap for families. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m and children must be picked up by 10:00 p.m.

MISSIONS - Marty Hilyer, Chair



Our Sharing God's Love collection:
FLOUR
SUGAR
CORNMEAL



Providence Men's Home: On May 8, the Lanterns will provide a meal to the men of Providence Home. We always appreciate help with these meals. If you plan to help with this meal, please contact Robert or Kitsie Miller. Thank you to the Millers and everyone who helps this ministry!

Loving Our Neighbors: The Missions Ministry last month

- * Provided an Easter meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.
- * Collected beans and other items to Sharing God's Love.
- * Packed and delivered weekend food backpacks for children at Seven Oaks Elementary School.
- * Made sandwiches for Oliver Gospel Mission.
- * Fed and housed a family through Family Promise.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and gave donations this past month, you are a blessing to those in need.

Habitat for Humanity: Banner Elk Summer Work Week- We'll have lodging at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC as we work on homes nearby. This year, we'll be there from Sunday, June 17- Friday, June 22. Please see John Whitfield for more information. Thank you!

Soup Kitchen 2018 - Oliver Gospel Mission: Those of you who are signed up will make sandwiches for the men of Oliver Gospel Mission at Centennial ARP church on the following dates this year: May 5, July 7, Sept. 8, Nov. 10 and Jan. 12, 2019. Thanks to Greg Mixon for coordinating this ministry and to everyone who helps.

LICS Volunteers: BAGGING VOLUNTEERS are needed to work in the LICS (Lexington Interfaith Community Services) Thrift Store on Thursday, May 31 at either 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We need two people to help with either shift bagging merchandise. Please contact Robert (807-7380) or Kitsie Miller (463-6958) if you can help.

FAMILY PROMISE: SOPC hosted Family Promise (FP) guests April 8-15, with volunteers from McGregor Presbyterian hosting two days during the week. Eight youth from SOPC's pre-confirmation class enjoyed preparing Sunday dinner and getting to know the kids. Volunteers reported having a great time with this delightful family.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING: Churches across South Carolina will participate in the Mother's Day Offering for Presbyterian Communities of SC. This special offering supports seniors who outlive their resources and depend on the generosity of others for their care. Please consider participating in this special offering and making a difference in the lives of older adults who are counting on us!

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy is not boastful, is not conceited, does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7



Missions Donations
\$2079.08

Trinity Presbytery
\$500 - Live Oaks
Counseling Center

\$500 -Thornwell Home
for Children

Ongoing collections are:
Pull tabs for the Ronald
McDonald House
and Box Tops for Education
for SOES.



We also continue to collect for Two Cents a Meal for the hungry in the red ribbon jars at our meals. You may leave your items in the Missions drop off room or the black baskets in the narthex.

