

# The Leaf

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

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# The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church Newsletter / July Issue 2018  
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Has anyone noticed our new SOPC praise tree logo? Recently approved by session, the new refreshed look will be appearing on all our literature and electronic media. Do you like the colors/fonts? Can you come up with 5 (or more) Christian symbols you see in the logo? Answers are on page ???

## July Sermon Series is "Religion and Politics"



- July 1 - The Me Too Movement
- July 8 - All Lives Matter
- July 15 - Fake News
- July 22 - It's Gonna Be Huge
- July 29 - We're Gonna Build A Great Wall

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship/Communion	2 4:00pm Congreg. Care <b>Children's Planning</b> 5:30pm Good News, B&G Admin. Missions 6:30pm Ministry Chairs 7:15pm Worship, Christian Ed Fellowship	3 10:30am Grief Support	4 Office Closed 	5	6 6:45am Lanterns	7
8 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	9 10:30am Prayer Circle	10 10:30am Grief Support 6:30pm Salad Supper	11	12	13 6:45am Lanterns	14
15 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 6:00pm Picnic at the Pavilion	16 12:00pm Ladies Luncheon 7:00pm Session Meeting	17 10:30pm Grief Support	18 3:00pm Staff Meeting	19	20 6:45am Lanterns	21
22 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	23 10:30am Prayer Circle	24 10:30am Grief Support	25	26	27 6:45am Lanterns	28
29 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	30	31 10:30am Grief Support				

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](mailto:jana@sopc.net)

Rev. Alice A. Odell  
Parish Associate  
[alice@sopc.net](mailto:alice@sopc.net)

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington  
Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Criss Gray  
Office Manager  
[sopc@sopc.net](mailto: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](mailto:sharon@sopc.net)

Mrs. Amy Schwartz  
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk  
[turk@wanadoo.mg](mailto:turk@wanadoo.mg)  
[www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm)

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 & G  
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.  
Tish Lowe - Missions  
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship  
Jack Noë - Good News  
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session  
Richard Brinkley - Admin.  
Linda Floyd - Worship  
Fred Holbrook - Admin.  
Melanie Mixon - Good News  
John Whitfield - Missions  
Shelagh Wirth - B&G

Trustees  
Janice Reiser  
Lucretia Seigler  
Scott Anderson

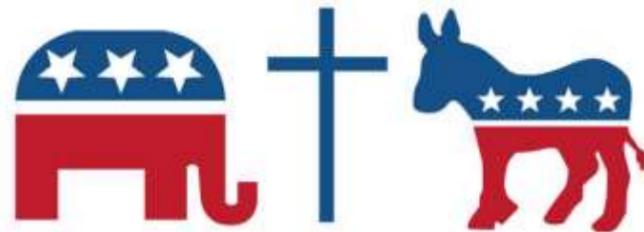
Treasurer  
Hal Bowman



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN FOR DOING SUCH A GOOD JOB IN HELPING OTHERS AND WORKING TO RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR MISSION'S FUNDRAISER. OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER WAS WONDERFUL!



Thank you for donating over 100 stuffed animals. Our children delivered them Friday, June 15th. These will bless so many at the children's hospital.



Have you seen the sign flashing by that says 'Politics in Church???' Has your interest been peaked by the concept that the two might mix?

**Pol-i-tics** is defined as the process of balancing competing interests in a social system. American culture teaches that politics is fundamentally about partisanship, or a prejudice towards a particular cause.

But Biblically, politics is really about the authority we recognize, the citizenship we claim, the values we hold as we pursue a vision of the common good with and for our neighbors. The questions for us as Christians and churchgoers who come to the table with ideas and ideals of our own, are *Can we avoid politicization in the church? Will God be at work through political discussions or will it make God's Word harder to hear? Is it possible to balance competing interests, in the church without conflict? And finally, is politics in the church always a bad thing?*

I argue that politics has always been part of church life, even from the very writing of the gospels. One example is in the gospel of Matthew when Jesus lays out the sermon on the mount. These are non-debatable requirements for the church and yet even in early church life, they were not often followed. After Pentecost, competing interests arose regarding how we should care for the widow or the poor or the unjust. The answers that came for the church were to teach deacons to focus on loving and serving. This in its very essence was a political decision based on differing values. Even from the early work of the church, politics is unavoidable, maybe it is not ideal, but it is none the less a fact of life.

And if politics is a fact of life in the church, then we must be about answering the question of *IS it always a bad thing or can we redefine politics to reflect the church's calling?*

For instance, if politics is truly about the authority we recognize as Christians, then politics in the church is essentially about defining who we claim as our authority, our Lord Jesus Christ. This means that when politics (partisanship) arrives on our doorstep that we reflect on this as giving preference not to our own beliefs shaped by the world, but instead finding our beliefs in the Word of God as our ultimate authority, Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Similarly, if politics is about our citizenship then we as church members are called to recognize our citizenship as first and foremost belonging to the kingdom of God. This means that the church, in its essence, must evaluate what we do and why we do those things. These are not based on our own 'armchair' theology that comes from our experiences, but are based on what is going on in God's kingdom around us.

Romans 12: 2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* We as citizens of Christ are called to live in the world but not be of the world. We are called instead to be of God's work in the world.

And finally, if politics as redefined as the values we hold as we pursue a vision of common good '**Loving our Neighbor, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ**', then the church is called to embark on this work with political imagination. We all recognize that our visions of common good may differ. Maybe, we are called to dispel the partisanship mentality and instead embrace imagination in how to be the church that actively pursues this common good (as opposed to agreeing to disagree). One church whose testimony to this pursuit is Saddleback Church in California whose medical missionaries were so effective that they were asked to testify to Congress about global healthcare strategy. They claimed their mission, the authority to which they adhere, and the vision for the common good and they practiced a response that does not abandon politics altogether but instead claims their political beliefs and delved into the only political reality that transcends all of our differences, that of Jesus Christ.

As a church we are called to overcome our fear of being 'too political' and instead recognize the deeply political character of all the church's reality. When we do this we overcome the notion of labels such as liberal or conservative. Instead, we work to align ourselves closely with the God we call Lord, rooted in Christ, not the world. It will require humility, persistence and hard work, as well as much love on our part as faithful Christians here at Seven Oaks. Are you ready to come hear about how and where church and pol-i-tics meet?

In Christ we Serve,  
Pastor Jana

FELLOWSHIP - *Ken O'Mellan, Chair*



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

This is a series of PW basics for those new to PW and those who sense some gaps in their PW knowledge. If you want to learn more, read the Leaf in the coming months for additional articles.

**PW 101.2: PW Circles and their Leadership:** *Presbyterian Women meet at the congregation level in "circles." No matter what the activities, as long as women meet to build community, support mission, nurture faith and/or work for justice and peace, those women are forming a "circle." No matter how many or how few activities a women's circle undertakes, if they do it on behalf of the PW Purpose they are a PW circle. Leadership in single-circle groups at the congregational level ideally consists of a moderator (to provide leadership to the circle and ensure communication among the members and with the congregation and session); a secretary/historian to record the work of the circle; and a treasurer to maintain the financial records of the circle. But PW is flexible! Circles don't have to be called circles and a team can have leaders who "wear more than one [leadership] hat."*

If you have questions, please contact one of the PW Coordinating Team members or circle chairs: Mary Lou Taylor, Julie Bussells, Emalee Dillard, Shelagh Wirth, Melanie Mixon, Mary Johnson, Charlotte Swearingen, Misty Werner, Marion Watson Wishart, Jeanne LeBoeuf, Bev Elbert, Jo Groce, or Beverly Hudson.



**Ladies of SOPC**, Shelagh Wirth is going to the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering, Aug. 2 – 5, 2018. This gathering will have over 2,500 ladies and gentlemen attending as it only happens every three years! We will worship, fellowship & share meals as well as attend workshops. Shelagh is asking for donations of Gift Cards. If you would like to buy Gift Cards from Walmart, Target, CVS or Walgreens in \$10 increments, you can give them to her any time before July 29. She will appreciate 1 card or 20, but they **must** be in only

\$10 increments. If you don't have time to shop, give her the cash and she will buy the cards in your name. The Gift cards will be distributed to the following three organizations:

- 1. D.I.A.P.E.R. Project** (Diapering Infants and Providing Emergency Resources), Charlestown, Indiana;
- 2. Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.** (KRM), Louisville, Kentucky KRM provides resettlement services to refugees;
- 3. Lily's Place**, Huntington, West Virginia, Lily's Place provides medical care to infants suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and offers non-judgmental support to families and caregivers.

If you have questions, please email Shelagh @ [swirth@sc.rr.com](mailto:swirth@sc.rr.com) or call at 803-629- 7851.

Shelagh Wirth



Many thanks to all of the members of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church for all the cards, letters, telephone calls and visits during my stay in the hospital. It is very comforting to know that I have such a large group of Christian friends to call upon in such a time and need as I just experienced. May the Lord bless each and every one of you!

Yours in Christ,  
Richard Brinkley

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 1 Kathy Keane
- 3 Sharon Staton
- 4 Bill Seigler
- 7 Mary Sandifer
- 8 Ken O'Mellan**
- 8 Edward Billings
- 9 Rosemary Lambert-Falls
- 10 Fran Brannon
- 13 Jean Mandeville
- 21 Beverly Hudson
- 21 Jay Robinson
- 27 Melanie Mixon
- 29 Roni Verenes

## SESSION NEWS

Elder Training was a big success and we thank you for the great attendance. We would like to also thank Ed Keelen, Polly Robinson and Ron Kesterson for serving with passion the last few years. Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, July 16. We will also have a special Session and staff retreat coming on August 25th. Please look for more details. Look for some exciting news in the life of our church in our August Leaf. Please keep our Session Members in your prayers as they follow the Lord's guidance.



PLEASE HELP OUR **DEBT FREE IN 3** CAMPAIGN BY DONATING YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR OUR CHURCH-WIDE SALE

Drop off your items between August 16th -17th.

(Or call for pick-up if needed for large items)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th**

**WILL BE OUR CHURCH YARD SALE.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Kathy Keane, Chair*

### Rally Day 2018

Come help us kick off the new Sunday School year.

We will celebrate the year to come August 26th.

More details to come in the August Newsletter.

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church will welcome girls into our new Scouting program beginning in August, 2018. We will start as a Boy Scouts of America Exploring Club for girls in the 6th-8th grades (ages 10-14). Our Exploring Club will focus on career opportunities, Scouting skills and outdoor adventure. In February, 2019 the Exploring Club will become a Boy Scouts of America Scout Troop for girls (all girls ages 11 or having completed 5th grade through 18 are welcome). Our Troop will offer a traditional Scout program of citizenship, character and leadership development, the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout and will, of course, include the fun of an exciting outdoor program.

We will hold meeting with families interested in the Scouting program at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church in August. Other Scout recruiting events will also be held in August at your local elementary schools. You can contact Jerry Hilbish at 803-750-0626 or [hilbish@biol.sc.edu](mailto:hilbish@biol.sc.edu) for more information about the Scouting program at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church. Please also call Jerry for information about Cub Scouting (ages 5-10) and Scouting for you sons.

**The Government of the PC (U.S.A.)** is unique in its methodology. At the church level we are governed by the an elected session, ruling elders and teaching elders which make the decisions on behalf of the church we serve.

Our church business is reviewed then by our respective Presbytery, Trinity Presbytery here in the midlands, where we then carry out business for the good of our collective churches, also led by elected ruling and reaching elders from each congregation.

Our presbytery then is governed by a Synod which oversees many Presbyteries within a specific geographical region, most recently the annual meeting was held here at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church. The mission of the *Synod of South Atlantic* is to faithfully serve Jesus Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) by supporting the ministries of our 16 presbyteries, and by encouraging cooperation among sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly.

And finally, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. The GA is full of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and mission tours sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements. The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods & presbyteries.

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) is currently being held in St. Louis, Missouri from June 16 – 23 with a theme of: *Renewing our Vision, focusing on 'Kingdom Building in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'*. This year the GA is reclaiming the prophetic voice of the PCUSA for social, racial and economic justice, the 223rd General Assembly will take a far more active role in addressing conditions in St. Louis and other cities that devastate the poor and oppressed.

We will receive many updates from the Business of the General Assembly over the next months as our representatives from Trinity Presbytery Return to home. One of the most pressing issues that was raised is a discussion on immigration and border control. Below you will see a speech given by the stated clerk, Nelson, dated June 16, 2018:

*As Presbyterians gather for the meeting of our 223rd General Assembly, we are mindful of the many issues of justice, peace and compassion we face, both as citizens of the United States and members of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*While we face issues of peace on the Korean peninsula, tragic injustice in the Middle East, and the specter of climate change in our nation and our world, there is nothing of more urgency than the tragedy that is unfolding at our borders, where children are ripped from their parents and placed in holding cells, while their frantic parents scream in agony at the separation.*

*What has this nation become? How have we wandered so far from Jesus' kind admonition, "Let the little children come to me ... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"? How can this be happening in a nation in which so many claim the traditions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam and the critical importance of families to the fabric of our lives together?*

*Perhaps the most egregious aspect of this policy is the willingness of the highest legal official of our nation to suggest that if a mother has fled violence in her own country to save herself and her children but has not had a chance to make a proper petition for safety in the U.S., she should be taught a lesson by having her children taken from her. It is almost incomprehensible that these acts should be used as a warning to others who would come.*

*What makes matters worse is the audacity of quoting the Apostle Paul's admonition to believers in Romans 13:1 to obey the law (presumably whatever the law says), while ignoring the higher scriptural demand that "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).*

*The crisis of tens of thousands of desperate people coming to the United States for relief seems almost overwhelming. But as the officials of our government attempt to address the crisis, we cannot afford to tarnish the highest values of our nation. We must not punish desperate parents by tearing their children away from them, leaving the parents without access to the children or assurance of their welfare.*

*In the name of God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stop!*

*In the faith we share,*

Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

As members of PC (U.S.A.) we are reminded that our call is not to worldly concerns but to Godly concerns in our world. Let us pray with and for our General Assembly as they discern the path of God's church in this world. Religion and Politics do meet in the church, indeed. The question is, to whom is our master?

**NEW LOGO: Answers from the 1st page:**

**flames of the Holy Spirit - The Trinity - People with arms raised in praise, - a cross - an open Bible**





**SEVEN OAKS WOMEN!**  
 Please join us for a SALAD SUPPER  
 Tuesday, July 10th @ 6:30 p.m.  
 in our church Fellowship Hall.  
 BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD  
 (and maybe the recipe too)  
**Don't forget to bring a friend!**

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE - Pat Byrne, Chair**

**SOPC is seeking folks willing to serve specifically in any of these areas:**

- ⇒ Prayer Shawls/Quilting (Creating gifts of comfort)
- ⇒ Prayer Team (Be on an email list, attend prayer meetings when available, Be in prayer for church)
- ⇒ Visitations (Routine visits for shut-in's or during hospital stays)
- ⇒ Food Ministry (Special requests or needs for our members)

Please contact the office at [SOPC@SOPC.net](mailto:SOPC@SOPC.net) with your preference.



Join us the Second and Fourth Monday  
 of each month at 10:30 a.m.  
 for our Prayer Circle in the Fellowship Hall.



Words are not enough to express the appreciation I feel regarding the many cards sent to my Mom, Carmen Shepard, during her illness. She enjoyed receiving them and called me each time to read them to me. I also truly appreciate the sympathy cards, text messages, Facebook postings, emails, phone calls and memorials in her name. Mom knew how blessed Guy and I am in being members of SOPC, the people are truly family. These acts of kindness will forever be remembered.  
 Love you all,  
 Judy Barnes & Guy San Fratello



**MISSIONS - Tish Lowe, Chair**



**Our Sharing God's Love collection:**  
 We will be collecting  
 cereal, grits and oatmeal.  
 Thank you!

**School Supplies Collection:** For Seven Oaks Elementary School. Glue Sticks, 24 Ct. Crayons, 12 ct. Colored Pencils, Pink Pearl erasers, #2 Pencils, Black Composition Notebooks, and Wide Rule Filler Paper. Please see the School's complete supply list in the Missions Closet. Thank you!

**Providence Men's Home:** On July 10, the Missions Ministry 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 everyone who helps provide this important ministry!

**Migrant Ministry Meal:** Our members will provide a meal for migrant workers on Tuesday, July 24 at the migrant camps. This program is done through the Migrant and Hispanic Ministries of Trinity Presbytery. If you're interested in helping with this meal, please contact Tish Lowe.

**Family Promise:** Family Promise guests will be here on Sunday, August 5 through Sunday, August 12. Please pray for the families in this program as well as our members who will serve them. If you are interested in hosting or bringing a meal, please contact Tish Lowe or Marty Hilyer. There will we sign up lists in the Narthex on July 15, 22 and 29. Thank you in advance.

**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: July 7, Sept. 8, Nov. 10 and Jan. 12, 2019. Thanks to Greg Mixon for coordinating and to everyone who helps.

- Loving Our Neighbors: The Missions Ministry last month**
- \* The Millers and members provided a meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.
  - \* Collected spaghetti and pasta sauce and other items for Sharing God's Love.
  - \* Packed and delivered weekend food backpacks for children at Seven Oaks Elementary School.
  - \* Collected our special Father's Day offering to support the Trinity Presbytery Migrant & Hispanic Ministry.
  - \* Worked for a week at Habitat for Humanity in Banner Elk, NC.

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



Missions Donations  
 \$2,079.08 Trinity Presbytery  
 \$500 Lampkin Family Missions  
 \$100 Tracy Rogers Memorial  
 at Presbyterian College

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..



**Safety Committee Update:** At the request of Session, a Safety Committee was formed and consists of Pat Byrne, Kathy Keane, John Jones, Ron Kesterson, Ken O'Mellan, Marilyn O'Mellan, Mark Wishart, JS White and John Whitfield. Judy Barnes and Sam White are co-chairs. The Committee's mission is to prepare a document and procedures for the congregation during an event such as a medical emergency, active shooter/ intruder alert, or natural disaster such as fire or tornado. The Committee has met three times and has prepared an updated, accurate plat of the entire church campus (thank you Sam). The Red Cross who uses our Fellowship Hall as a designated shelter during natural disaster events, Lexington County Emergency Services and Lexington County Law Enforcement agencies have been contacted. Our plats have been completed and calls will be made to set up "walk throughs" with each of these agencies so they can provide guidance in the writing of our document. Please pray for guidance for this Committee to provide easy, direct procedures to deal with such events.