

# 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 / August Issue 2018  
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## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Youth Mission Trip 9:00 Chin Youth Conf 4:00 Safety Meeting - Session Room	2 Youth Mission Trip 9:00 Chin Youth Conference	3 Youth Mission Trip 6:45am Lanterns 9:00 Chin Youth	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion	6 <i>Family Promise</i> 10:30 Grief Support <b>4:00 Children's Planning</b> 5:30 Good News, Worship, B&G, Admin. Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship	7 <i>Family Promise</i> 5:30 PWC CT	8 <i>Family Promise</i>	9 <i>Family Promise</i>	10 <i>Family Promise</i> 6:45am Lanterns	11
12 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Back To School JAM	13 10:30 Prayer Circle	14	15	16	17 6:45am Lanterns Item Pick Up for Yard Sale	18 YARD SALE
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	20 12:00 Ladies Luncheon 7:00 Session Meeting	21	22 3:00 Staff Meeting	23	24 6:45am Lanterns	25 FAMILY NIGHT OUT
26 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:25 All ages activities 9:45 Sunday School Overview 9:50 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	27 10:30 Prayer Circle	28	29	30	31 6:45am Lanterns	

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 Morganello -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

## Rally Day August 26

"For we walk by FAITH, not by sight"  
2 Corinthians 5:7

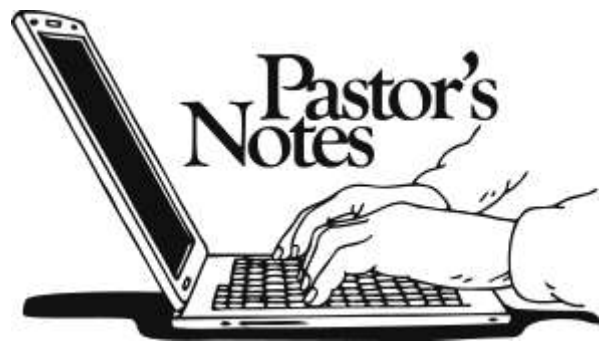
9:00am Breakfast  
9:25am Intergenerational activities  
9:45am Adult Classes Overview and  
Children/Youth Sunday School begins  
9:50am Adult Sunday School begins  
11:00am Worship Service

## Community-CHURCH

# YARD SALE

Please help us raise money for our Debt Free in 3 Campaign by donating your unwanted items before August 17th. All proceeds will help us to finish our goal. This is a great time to clean out your closets, garage, attic or shed and help your church become Debt Free. Please drop items off during church office hours in the Crossroads classroom. For larger items we will have pick up dates. Thanks so much for your generosity and contact Tara Whitfield, 429-5171, if you would be willing to volunteer. Our children will be selling refreshments.  
Yard Sale Date. AUGUST 18th 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.





Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

When I was first called to seminary, one of the things I leaned on was the scripture above. As I entered that first class among strangers, questioning why God wanted me here, I knew I needed to trust and grow in faith but I did not know from whence that faith would come.

What is Faith? Faith is an unshakable belief in God and the promises of God. Faith is developed in us and for us through our worship, our studies, our walk with God and with each other.

Faith also involves listening and obeying God's commands in our lives. In other words, we are expected to put such confidence in God that we do the things that will deepen our faith. Even things that are uncomfortable or that take extra time, or that we don't always understand at first. *That's why I went to seminary, because to grow in faith, I had to take a leap.* And while the definition of faith describes an unshakable belief, sometimes we do shake and our faith waivers. That's why for the next year we are focusing on the verse from 2 Corinthians, 'For we walk by faith, not by sight'. If it were up to us, our faith would stop before we get out of bed on Sunday mornings. But thankfully, our God is calling us to more.

This August 26, Rally Day at SOPC you might find yourself anywhere on the faith spectrum. Maybe you are learning to trust again- in God or in the church. Maybe you are a newly joined member who is seeking to be accepted and belong. Maybe you are a soon to be joined member who longs for a family of faith to walk with you. Or maybe you are a member of many years who longs to help others grow in faith alongside you. *This thing called faith does not care how long you have been here, only that you are willing to take a leap towards Christ, heeding scriptures and "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).*

No matter where you are on your faith journey Rally Day is a day to inquire how your faith will grow this next year. There are new Sunday School classes to try on, new Bible studies to endeavor, new ways to make friends. *Faith is calling each of us. Won't you come and see how God is making space for faith in you? "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.." Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Rev. Jana Creighton

## GOOD NEWS - Jim Taylor, Chair



@sopc\_church



sevenoakspc sevenoakspresbyterian



SOPC now has a presence on most social media platforms. When you are on the social media websites, please like, follow, check in, or comment on the SOPC posts. Thanks!



Are we a welcoming church? Do we give a great first impression? A recent new member stated that SOPC is a very welcoming church. But we should always try to improve. After the session read "The Welcoming Congregation" last year, several suggestions are being implemented. We are in the process of designing and installing new signage around campus to help guests find their way around. And another enhancement to the guest experience is to have SOPC leadership (elders) be easily identifiable for questions from new guests. Hence, you will start seeing our brand new elder name tags being worn around the church campus. Any more suggestions you have, please pass on to Good News ministry - responsible for guests and new member assimilation.

## VBS

This year we had a wonderful week with the support of 40 or so amazing volunteers for our Babylon VBS. We had 104 children registered and our attendance ranged from 86-92 throughout the week. 50-60 of the families indicated that they would be interested in learning more about events here at Seven Oaks and are being added to our mailing list. I will also be reaching out to these families. During the week the children and volunteers explored the idea that no matter what (when we are sad, happy, thankful, etc.) God is **always** with us. I had and have heard many of the children asked if "VBS could be everyday", they also asked if they could "really talk to God at any time". Many are going through so much in their lives and found comfort in that God is always with them and always there. **A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS! THIS WEEK WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!**

## Mission trip

We left on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup> to head to Nashville, TN. We have two adults and three youth attending. We will stay at Dalewood UMC along with about 100 other youth and volunteers from across the country.

## Projects during the week included:

- Working with lower-income children through an organization that offers tutoring, summer camp, a basketball league, job skills training, and other activities as a positive alternative to the streets.
- Assisting refugees through a ministry that engages churches, other organizations, and individuals to assist immigrants and refugees in the region.
- Serving with a local summer school that works to increase literacy to keep kids off the streets
- Helping teach rising Kindergartners their basics like ABC's, colors, shapes and work with them on reading in a safe summer environment.
- Encouraging older adults with cognitive or physical limitations to engage in activities.
- Providing help to seniors that are unable to work on the inside and outside of their homes.
- Packaging and delivering diapers to families through the Diaper Connection.

## WHAT ARE THE PROGRAMS LIKE?

**Jesus-centered.** Our goal is to point people to Jesus. Programs focus on Bible passages and daily themes that challenge us to respond to Jesus in ways we will never forget.

**Interactive.** People learn better by doing. Participants will be involved in sharing, speaking, singing, acting, reflecting...not just sitting and watching.

**Relevant.** Through creative multimedia, thought provoking sound and video, and moving contemporary worship, programs are designed to reach everyone.

**Fun.** Relationship-building activities, games and having fun are part of every program. Expect to have a great time!

## Back to school JAM: August 12<sup>th</sup>

immediately following the service, in the Fellowship Hall



## Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>: Family night out!

Bring your family and join us for a fun filled night at the ballpark. Please let Michaela know if you and your family would like to attend so that we can get a group rate on tickets. If we do not get a group rate tickets will be \$10 apiece.



## THANK YOU'S

Dear Staff and Volunteers of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church, I just wanted to thank you for all of your hard work in putting on this VBS. My daughter has loved going this week and I know she has learned and grown so much from it. This is such an important ministry and such a blessing to the community-particularly for children from homes that are not church-going. To introduce them to the faith and the love of Christ through your smiling faces, is such a gift! One without measure.  
Sincerely in gratitude, Isabel Williams

Thank you to the ladies of SOPC for their generous donation of Gift Cards (20) for Louisville.

Shelagh Wirth





At its last Stated Meeting, on July 15, 2018 your Session . . .

1. Approved adding the position of Membership Secretary to our annual election of Treasurer and Clerk of Session.
2. Approved Shelagh Wirth to continue as Membership Secretary for the 2018-2019 year.
3. Heard that PW had a salad supper and approximately 40 women attended.
4. Heard that PW will install their new officers on Sunday, August 12.
5. Heard that Rally Day will be August 26 and breakfast will be served.
6. Heard that usher and greeter training will be held at 9:00 a.m. on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
7. Elected John Jones to serve as our Elder-Commissioner for the Trinity Presbytery meeting on August 11.
8. Heard that we currently have cash of \$134,000 and pledges of \$65,000 for a total of \$199,000 in the organ fund. Of the \$134,000 in cash, \$38,250 has already been paid as a deposit, so it is no longer in the checking account.
9. Heard that we will participate in the Migrant Ministry meal on July 24<sup>th</sup>.
10. Heard that our next Family Promise week will be August 5 – 12 and volunteers are needed.
11. Heard that the Missions Ministry made a donation of \$1,500.00 to the youth mission trip.
12. Heard that the Grant Program will be restarted this Fall.
13. Learned that the Mission Ministry is exploring a partnership with a Cuban Church.
14. Moved several members to the inactive roster.
15. Approved a “Singles” dinner and movie to be held in Fellowship Hall in the near future.
16. Was reminded that elders now have magnetic elder name tags and have been asked to wear them any time guests to SOPC may be present so we can enhance our “Welcoming Church” philosophy.
17. Received some requests for the use of our church facilities. The Building and Grounds ministry will seek further information on these requests.
18. Approved the use of our church facilities by the Trinity Presbytery women on March 16, 2019.
19. Approved Kathy Keane to serve as an advisor on the missions trip to Nashville with Michaela Craven and youth this July/August.
20. Approved the Sunday School Teachers for the 2018-2019 calendar year.
21. Approved the ministry Architects “Spice Rack” curriculum for Middle School Sunday School this Fall.
22. Heard that Ed Keelen will be Sunday School Superintendent for the coming year.
23. Heard that the theme for Koinonia this year will be “Getting to know your Neighbor”. Jeanne LeBoeuf will be heading up the Koinonia committee.
24. Heard that we are developing a convergence Brewing the Faith Sunday School class that will appeal to new members and those who currently do not attend Sunday School. Ben Smith and Rusty Creighton will teach this class.
25. Prayed for all church members, especially those experiencing illness and or grief.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2 Paul Clamp
- 2 Guy San Fratello
- 3 Alice Odell
- 4 Allison Burnside
- 5 Jason Moore
- 8 Rusty Creighton
- 9 Sarah Drayton
- 10 Jana Creighton
- 10 Vern Rogers
- 13 John Jones
- 14 Luke Fant
- 15 Kitsie Miller
- 18 Nan Foster
- 18 Lucretia Seigler
- 18 Irene Brinkley
- 19 Tate Fant
- 26 Barb Schneider
- 30 Maureen Clark
- 30 Martha Hallbick
- 30 Marion Watson-Wishart
- 30 Mark Wishart
- 30 Richard Brinkley
- 31 Sarah Paschal

## FELLOWSHIP - *Ken O'Mellan, Chair*



Fall Koinonia starts back up Sept. 12th. We are in need of additional volunteers to help clean-up for Koinonia and Church Night Suppers. Contact Ken O'Mellan @ [komellan@sc.rr.com](mailto:komellan@sc.rr.com) if you can help.

**Just a reminder, with summer coming to a close and folks trying to get in one more vacation before school starts, we will not have a Church Night Supper in August.**



**Keep your eyes open for news about the SOPC Golf Tournament in October.**



We will begin our Monday morning Bible Study on Monday, Sept. 10, 2018 in the Fellowship Classroom at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited. We will begin our year with the study of the Book of Genesis. Genesis is full of rich stories that are familiar to many of us from creation to the story of Adam and Eve, Cain and Able, the stories of Jacob and his loves, Joseph and the twelve tribes. We will study each one and gather the meaning for us in today's world. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you again as we study, pray and have a time of fellowship with one another each week. Blessings, Rev. Alice Odell

The Fellowship Committee invites you to Restaurant Supper Club for 6. Eat out locally once per month Sept., Oct. and Nov. with different partners each month. The host/hostess will arrange the date and time and choose a restaurant. All participants will pay for their own meal. Couples and singles are welcome, as are substitutes. Please call or email Molly Jackson with questions and to sign up 798-3750 or [mollyjackson803@gmail.com](mailto:mollyjackson803@gmail.com), by Wednesday August 15 so we can have the rotation to you before Labor Day.



Have you ever thought you would like to learn how to quilt or if you already know how to and would like to put your skills to good use join SOPC Quilters on Tuesday, Sept 6, at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship classroom. The quilts we make go to Palmetto Richland Children's Hospital PICU and children's Oncology. Sewing machines and basic sewing skills are required. We will help you sharpen your skills and help you create quilts made with love. If you have questions, call Jean Mandeville at 798-8472.

## ADMINISTRATION - *Fred Holbrook, Chair*



Deposits Paid - Organ	\$ 38,000
Cash in the bank	\$ 98,000
Pledges to be collected	\$ 65,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$201,000</b>

### Financial Recap:

	June	Jan-June
Revenue	\$35,598	\$238,782
Expenses	\$48,233	\$238,680
Net Total	(\$12,635)	\$ 102

Note: June expenses included quarterly liability and worker's compensation insurance payments of approximately \$8,000.

## WORSHIP - *Kathy Morganelli, Chair*

**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! We will bless the hands that receive them in the sanctuary on Rally Day, Aug. 26th.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

Children and teachers returning to school are invited to receive a blessing at 11:00am on August 19<sup>th</sup> during worship. Bring a friend and their backpack and let's pray for God's guidance in the new school year!



## MISSIONS - *Tish Lowe, Chair*

**Our ongoing collections are:** Pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for Education for Seven Oaks Elementary School. 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. Thank you.

**Our Sharing God's Love collection:**  
We will be collecting peanut butter and jelly. Thank you!



### Family Promise

Family Promise guests will be here Sunday, August 5 through Sunday, August 12. Please pray for the families in the Family Promise program as well as our members who will serve them. If you have questions about this ministry, please contact Tish Lowe or Marty Hilyer. Thank you to everyone who is a part of helping these families in need.

### Providence Men's Home

On August 14, the Missions Ministry will provide a meal to the 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 provide this important ministry!

### 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: Sept. 8, Nov. 10 and Jan. 12, 2019. Thanks to Greg Mixon for coordinating this ministry and to everyone who helps.

### August Missions Donations:

**\$2,079.08** Trinity Presbytery, **\$500** SC Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Program, **\$100** Quilt Project

### Loving Our Neighbors: The Missions Ministry last month

- \* The Millers and members provided a meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.
- \* Collected cereals, grits and oatmeal and other items Sharing God's Love.
- \* Supported the Trinity Presbytery Migrant and Hispanic Ministry by providing a meal to the migrant workers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and gave donations this past month, you are a blessing to those in need.

### Mission Lexington (Formerly LICS) Volunteers

Bagging volunteers are needed to work in the Mission Lexington Thrift Store on Thursday, August 30 at either 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We just need two people to help with either shift and all they need to do is bag merchandise. Please contact Robert (807-7380) or Kitsie Miller (463-6958) if you're willing to help.

