

# The Leaf

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

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Columbia, SC



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/  
missionconnections/  
profiles/turkd.htm

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

Class of 2020 - Session  
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

Treasurer  
Hal Bowman

# The Leaf

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787 sopc@sopc.net www.sopc.net

**FOLLOW THE STAR**  
*Adventure*

4K-5th Grade  
Dec. 8, 2018 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
FREE - Fun - Lite Lunch - Crafts - Adventure  
\*If you have a child with special needs that requires special accommodations, we ask that you call the church office.

Please register at  
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/followthestar>  
or call the office at 803-772-1761 by December 1st.

## NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 6:45 Lanterns	3
4 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	5 10:30 Bible Study 4:00 Congreg. Care, Christ. Ed 5:30 Good News, B & G, Worship Admin. Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship	6 10:30 Support Group 4:30 SOPW meeting 7:00 YOGA	7 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	8	9 6:45 Lanterns	10
11 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	12 <i>Poinsettia orders are due</i> 10:30 Bible Study	13 7:00 PRAYER VIGIL 7:00 YOGA	14 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	15	16 6:45 Lanterns	17 10:00 - 4:00 Holiday Market
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 Service @ McGregor	19 10:30 Bible Study 6:00 Session Meeting	20 7:00 YOGA	21 12:15 Chair YOGA	22 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23 6:45 Lanterns CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 <i>Family Promise</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	26 <i>Family Promise</i> 10:30 Bible Study	27 <i>Family Promise</i> 7:00 YOGA	28 <i>Family Promise</i> 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	29	30 6:45 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.



### AN ADVENT STUDY ADVENTURE

The churches that we share our Thanksgiving Service with are doing an "An Advent Traveling Church" this year. The Advent Study will be from Walter Brueggemann's book *Names for the Messiah* and will be held from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 2,9,16.at different churches with different pastors teaching. Dec. 2 will be held at McGregor with Jill Beimdiek teaching. Dec. 9 will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal with Gary Loadholdt leading and Dec.16 will be at Redeemer Lutheran with Julie Bird leading. Please consider attending and if you want Rev. Alice to order a book for you, let her know.

**FREE Admission**

**Holiday Market**

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Arts & Crafts

FOOD & Music

**PET ADOPTION!**

SILENT AUCTION

Carolers

If you would like to be a vendor or donate items contact Tara, 803-429-5171.



*My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7*

**As a church,** we began this season with the scripture 'walking by faith, not by sight'. In many ways we have been living this out in God's community of SOPC, trying new things, exploring new lessons, deepening the faith given in Christ, one step at a time. Maybe sometimes we have felt like the footprints in the sand where God is carrying us. Maybe we have felt like Israelites walking together through the desert sands towards the thirsty promised land. Or maybe we have stood hand in hand on the beach letting our feet sink into the waves, relishing in the beauty of God's creation. No matter where we as a church find ourselves on this journey, the call this Thanksgiving season is a call to be reflective. Colossians chapter 2 invites us to take time to be reflective of how we are choosing to spend this precious time as God's people, called together in witness to the One we profess and love.

**As a staff,** we have begun this thanksgiving journey alongside you. We offer the following gifts of thanksgiving, in the words of the Psalmist "Giving thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever".(136:1)

Thankfulness overflows each time I work with the trusted session at Seven Oaks. Each individual with their thoughts, care, concern, and leadership skills brings a love for Christ that is shaping the path forward for SOPC to follow Christ's call. Gratitude for me also bubbles over each time I have the privilege of sitting with the trusted staff of Seven Oaks, praying, discerning, listening, and leading God's church into the tomorrow that is contemplated in Christ. And last but not least, the care, concern and love each of you show one another is a gift to be thankful for. I give thanks for each of you, for in Christ each member is made and loved.

Pastor Jana Creighton

I am thankful for our Monday morning Bible Study because it makes me study hard and then when comments are made in class, it makes me think deeper about how great our God really is. Through this class my faith has deepened and my desire to know more and to share Scripture more has grown over the years. I am grateful for all of you when you trust me with your stories, share your feelings and allow me to minister to you in some way. There is much to be thankful for at Seven Oaks; not only do you care and love one another but your willingness to help and serve others is special.

Pastor Alice Odell,  
Parish Associate

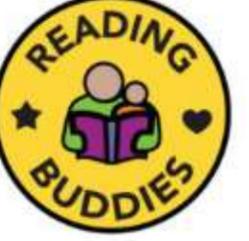
I am thankful for each and every one of the children and families that come through our doors as well as the love that surrounds them through the work of all of the caring volunteers. I'm thankful for the questions they ask which drives me to explore beyond my normal way of thinking and leads me to grow in my own faith as they grow in theirs. I am so thankful for the love and dedication that our congregation has in their faith and in growing the faith of the next generation. I'm amazed at the willingness to reach outside of the church walls to those in our community and the drive everyone here has to make our world (not just our church) a better place. I am thankful and blessed every moment I spend here.

Michaela Craven,  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



**SEVEN OAKS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
MEDIA MAGNET

**WE NEED YOU!**  
Calling any and all volunteers!  
Seven Oaks Elementary School is in need of **Reading Buddies for children.** This would only be a commitment of 30 minutes per week, but a chance to make a difference in a child's life. If you are interested please request a volunteer form from Michaela Craven.



**READING BUDDIES**

MISSIONS

**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.

#### **Providence Men's Home**

On Tuesday Nov. 13, the Missions Ministry will provide a meal to the men of Providence Home. The Millers will also provide a meal on Thanksgiving Day. Please contact the Millers if you would like to donate food items for the meal. Any help is greatly appreciated. If you plan to help prepare/serve either of these meals, or would like to contribute food items please contact Robert or Kitsie Miller. Thank you to the Millers and everyone who helps provide this meal for the men who live there.

#### **October Missions Donations**

\$2,079.08 Trinity Presbytery  
\$ 500.00 Sistercare



#### **Mentor Program at Irmo High School**

Irmo High School has invited us to participate in their mentoring program. Building a trusting, caring relationship with a student can change their life! After filling out an application and mentor training, the commitment is 30-45 minutes per week. If you have any interest in making a positive impact on a student, please contact Ben Smith or Tish Lowe for more details.

#### **Family Promise**

Family Promise guests will be here on Sunday, November 25 through Sunday, December 2. Please pray for the families in the Family Promise program as well as our members who will serve them. If you know you're interested in hosting or bringing a meal, please contact Tish Lowe or Marty Hilyer. There will be sign up lists in the Narthex starting November 4. Thank you in advance for being a part of 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: November 10 and January 12, 2019. Thanks to Greg Mixon for coordinating this ministry 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 Laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid and other items for Sharing God's Love.
- \* Packed food backpacks for the children of Seven Oaks Elementary School.
- \* Collected the Peace and Global Witness Offering. A portion of this offering for peace and justice will be given locally to Lighthouse for Life. This is an organization that helps individuals, families and organizations detect, prevent and protect their communities from human trafficking.
- \*Members participated in collecting food at the Ballentine Walmart for the Backpack Program.

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

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are learning the Simple Basics of the Bible at Bootcamp on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation will continue during this time for the youth as well as Youth/Children Worship Teams. It is important that they are faithful to these events as they prepare to be more involved in our worship services.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: Child/Youth Protection Training for anyone who will be teaching/working/volunteering with the children 12:15 pm and 4:30 pm (*Training is about 30 minutes*)
- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm  
Holiday Market: The children will have a table, where they will be selling ornaments they have made as a fundraiser
- Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>: Children's Worship team will be a part of the service  
Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp Fellowship Event
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: Advent Adventure - You can register at:  
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/followthestar>
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Children's Worship team will be a part of the service  
Bible Bootcamp Fellowship Event
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Bible Bootcamp Christmas Party

## ACOLYTES

Nov. 11  
Lucy Park

Nov. 18  
Ewan Park

Nov. 25  
Megan Shuler



## YOUTH and CONFIRMATION ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE:

- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>: **Tentative: Youth Mission Project- 10:00 am, - 1:00 pm**
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>: Youth Worship team will be a part of the service
- Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp Fellowship Event
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Children's Worship team will be a part of the service  
**Tentative: Prime Rib Dinner/ Children/youth participating**
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp Fellowship Event
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Bible Bootcamp Christmas Party



**Also, please let Michaela know if your child would be interested in taking part in the Christmas Eve Service.** Please note: IF your child/youth are interested in participating in worship with the worship teams they MUST attend practice on Sunday nights to prepare. For any youth planning to be confirmed in the Spring they MUST be in attendance at a minimum of 70% of the classes. Example: There will be 10 classes between now and Christmas, a minimum of 7 of them need to be attended. These classes are vital to their learning about their faith, the church, and the development of their faith statements.  
\*As we grow we are increasing our needs for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to work with the children or youth for any of these events, please let Michaela know!

I am very thankful to be a part of a church that gives me the opportunity to share my faith through music, and for the privilege of working with so many talented and incredibly dedicated individuals in our ministry of music! It is also great joy to be part of the Seven Oaks family that is so committed to nurturing our faith, supporting our lives and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our community.

Dr. Lloyd Pilkington  
*Director of Music*

When I became the office manager here at SOPC I was a single mom raising 2 young sons. The people of this church were kind and opened their hearts to me. Now I am married and have more children, a husband who pastors as well, which can be demanding, and yet this church still has always encouraged me and prayed for me. I am thankful not only for working with you, but also walking along side of you as friends. I am also thankful for my volunteers. You are a true testimony that defines the body of Christ and you have been willing to be the hands and feet to everyone, not just your own members.

Criss Gray,  
*Office Manager*

What I am most thankful for at Seven Oaks are the people. This was more than evident in the past few weeks after my car accident; the phone calls, the texts and every person that has stopped me to talk about how I am doing means the world to me. To have the opportunity to work for such a kind hearted, caring congregation is not just a blessing, but also a pleasure. I couldn't begin to put into words the impact this place has made on my life for 8 years.

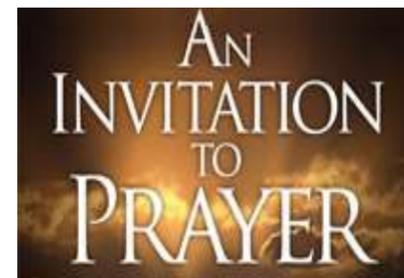
Karl Thompson,  
*Building Superintendent*

I am thankful for our choir. They are dedicated, caring and are strong in leading the worship service.

Sharon Watkins,  
*Church Accompanist*

I am thankful for the leadership of the church and for the support and assistance of the session and the Administration committee, with my ministry at SOPC.

Sharon Staton  
*Volunteer Financial Administrator*



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

There will be a PRAYER VIGIL on  
Tuesday, November 13th,  
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. here in our sanctuary.

On behalf of the Scarborough – Brinkley family, I want to personally thank the members of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church who responded with their prayers and condolences during a very difficult time in my family's lives. Losing Irene has been extremely difficult for all of us as she was larger than life, always smiling, and a fine Christian Lady that was always a giving person.

Thanks for the many acts of kindness already shown through food, messages, prayers and visits and above all, being a support network for me as I could not begin to move forward without this support and without the Lord's help. May the Lord bless each and every one of you as you continue thru life's journey.

In Christian Love,  
Richard Brinkley, Jr.

## Happy Birthday

Linda Killian	3
Kathie Cashion	15
Ben Killian	16
Tish Lowe	17
Charlaine Pilkington	17
Sandra Jones	18
Robert Miller	18
Julie Bussells	22
John Carter	22
Griffin Giugliano	22
Julie Burnside	29

## FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, November 18th - 7:00 p.m.  
McGregor Presbyterian Church



**THANKSGIVING CHURCH NIGHT SUPPER** Come join us for a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner. The menu will include Smoked Turkey and Ham, Dressing, Giblet Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Candied Yams, Green Beans, Seasoned Squash Medley, Mixed Green Salad, Yeast Rolls and Pumpkin Pie. Please come and enjoy the delicious holiday meal and fellowship with your church friends on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Dinner tickets will be sold in the Narthex Nov. 4 and Nov. 11. Adult tickets are \$7, Children under 12 are \$4 (Children under 4 eat free) with a family cap of \$20 for parents and school age children. Hope to see you there!

**A SMOKIN' DEAL FOR THANKSGIVING:** The Fellowship Ministry is offering smoked turkeys again this year. Please let Mark Wishart know if you desire to purchase one of our delicious turkeys no later than Nov 12<sup>th</sup> and we will have it ready for pick up the evening of our Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner. We are asking \$28.00 per turkey. They should be in the 12-14 lb. range. We will also furnish an instruction sheet on how to reheat your bird! Thank you from the Fellowship Ministry.

**CHRISTMAS PRIME RIB DINNER:** is at 6:00 p.m. on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for a delicious meal and join Lloyd Pilkington in a Round-the-Table Sing-along celebrating the season with your Seven Oaks Friends. Menu includes Prime Rib of Beef w/Aujus, Roasted Young Turkey (for non-beef lovers), Loaded Baked Potatoes, Stir-Fry Vegetables, Sautéed Mushrooms, Super Greek Salad, Hot Rolls, and Home Made Desserts. Tickets will be sold Nov. 18th, Nov. 25th and Dec. 2nd. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 (Children under 4 eat free) and a family cap of \$36 for parents and school age children.

### THE ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our party will be held at the Chestnut Hill Plantation Clubhouse on Sunday, Dec. 2nd from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. We will provide a non-alcoholic punch but feel free to bring your favorite adult beverage. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift not to exceed \$10. Mark your calendars and come join us for great food and fellowship. For those who are involved with Bootcamp, we can carpool together afterwards.



## SESSION NEWS

### At its last Stated meeting, on October 15, your Session...

- Received, read and discussed seeking to be "Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterian During times of Disagreement" which was adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for use by sessions and congregations.
- Heard reports on the activities of our Pastor and Parish Associate.
- Heard that the Presbyterian Women will be collecting the Thank Offering during the next month and that envelopes will be available in the pews for anyone who wishes to participate.
- Heard a report from Elizabeth Taylor, chairperson of our Pastor Nominating Committee. She reminded us of the ministry information form which we completed in 2017 and in which we specified the kind of pastor we were seeking and in which we also specified the leadership competencies which the pastor we needed must possess. These competencies were: *Preaching and worship - Spiritual maturity - Strength and Vision - Communication - Change agent - Interpersonal Engagement - Compassionate Bridge Builder - Decision making - Collaboration*  
Our form was approved by the Session before it was submitted. The PNC was of one mind in recommending Rev. Creighton to our congregation.
- Safety Committee Update: Agreed on the date of Dec 17<sup>th</sup> for safety training led by Lexington County Sheriff's Department, if they are available.
- Vitalization: Shared elder experiences and learnings from our neighborhood analysis for vitalization of Seven Oaks.
- Were informed that vitalization surveys are submitted this week and SOPC will be made aware of results when returned.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder John Jones.
- Changed the Session meeting time to 6:00 p.m. beginning with the November meeting.
- Decided to form a Task Force to work towards reconciliation.
- Approved a motion to not fill elder vacancies until the 2019 Nominating Committee can meet and nominate candidates per policy manual.
- Approved the Administration ministry renewing our CD, that expires soon, for the least amount of time and at the largest interest rate available.
- Signed cards to congregation members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in recent weeks.
- Heard that we will host a prayer vigil on November 13 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Jim Wilhide,  
Clerk of Session

### POINSETTIAS



Our Sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for Christmas. You may purchase a poinsettia(s) for \$13 to be given in appreciation, in memory, or in honor of a loved one or friend. Names of donors and honorees will be listed in the Dec. 24th bulletin. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service. Please complete the order form in the pew and place in the offering plate or submit to the church office by Nov. 12th. Please make checks payable to SOPC.

**TROPHIES!!!** We have a lot of them! Would you like to take a few trophies home and give them a life on your shelves? We have numerous trophies that need to be stored and we just don't have the space. If you are interested, please come to the church on Monday, Nov. 5 and pick some up. Thank you for helping to clean up our church storage room.

