

# The Leaf

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #885  
Columbia, SC



# The Leaf

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787 [sopc@sopc.net](mailto:sopc@sopc.net) [www.sopc.net](http://www.sopc.net)

Return Service Requested

## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 10:30 Bible Study 4:00 Congreg. Care, 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin. Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship	2 10:30 Support Group 7:00 YOGA	3 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOI NONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	4 SOPC Quilters	5 6:45 Lanterns	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/Jam/Confirm	8 10:30 Bible Study	9 Providence Home 7:00 YOGA	10 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOI NONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	11	12 6:45 Lanterns	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 12:15 Teacher Training/Lunch 5:30 Bootcamp/Jam/Confirm	15 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting	16 7:00 YOGA	17 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOI NONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	18	19 6:45 Lanterns	20
21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/Jam/Confirm Church Night Supper	22 10:30 Bible Study	23 7:00 YOGA	24 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOI NONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	25	26 6:45 Lanterns	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Stewardship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/Jam/Confirm	29 10:30 Bible Study	30 7:00 YOGA	31 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOI NONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir			

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.  
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



In the church, stewardship usually means fundraising and pledge campaigns. In reality, stewardship means “taking care of” or “managing.” What we are called to take care of, to manage, is the ministry and mission God has given us as a community and as individuals. This is certainly more than fundraising and pledge campaigns!

The truth is that we need money to support the ministry and mission of SOPC; but we need even more than that. Stewardship is about a lot more than money; it's more about giving back in response to God's giving to us to do God's work of love in the world.

We don't give to get something. We don't give a certain amount and then expect God to give back like an investment banker. We don't give out of guilt. We don't give because we think God is going to sit on high and punish us if we don't.

We give out of gratitude. We give because God gave us life, abundant life, and God gave us love, unconditional love. There really is no way to thank God adequately for those great gifts, or the other gifts. But, we can give of our gifts so that others can come to know and experience the fullness of life and love in God.

Stewardship is about learning together how to be generous like God is generous. It is about growing in the love of God and neighbor and in so doing, allowing God to grow our spiritual faith.



### Commitment Sunday is October 28.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to strengthen God's work here at SOPC with your financial/time & talent pledges for 2019.

Thank you for all you do for Seven Oaks and for helping us live more fully into God's desires for us.

Sincerely,  
Fred Holbrook  
Stewardship Chair



From the Pastor

I received a card from Pat Robosky with this quote that threads through today's message. It begins by saying: *'I was regretting the past, and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: My Name is I Am'*. Below is one story of how we live into our image of God as 'I Am'.

What I remember the most about fall (other than football) is raking chestnut leaves in our yard on crisp Saturday mornings. While I worked hard, I also came to depend on the kindness of neighbors, despite our differing faith traditions and beliefs. Our Jewish neighbors would welcome us in for jelly belly's and peanut butter snacks, our Catholic neighbors would offer cookies on the lawn and play on a lazy day, and our non-religious neighbors allowed me to water their yard when they were away. We were a bit like a family of sorts. As I grew into a teenager, these same neighbors aged and began to move away. I never told them just how important they were to my growing up. How I learned about being a family from them. *'God paused. I waited. God continued saying 'When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets. It is hard. I am not there. My name is not 'I WAS'.'*

In our early 20's, newly married and living across country, I feared what life would bring. Particularly as 9/11 made terror freshly real in our world, I questioned our purpose. No longer was the world idyllic, no longer were there trustworthy neighbors, and no longer were we 'safe'. *God says 'When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not 'I WILL BE'*

In my forties now, the perception of our world has changed. I cannot recreate the past, nor would I want to. I will not live in the future, it holds nothing but fears that do not resemble the promise of our God. But I do still long for a family, yes, even with quarrels and disagreements. Now I recognize, however, that the family I seek is the one based in God himself. It is the people whom God gives us to be in **relationship** with daily. *'When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here. My name is 'I AM'.*

As your pastor, I am grateful to have the privilege of leading the church in seeking the 'I AM' in our new season. I am grateful that God has called us to be in relationship first and foremost with the 'I Am' who has called us each to this place. I am grateful for those who are ready to embrace this sense of family, including the Wednesday night supper theme of 'Getting to know your Neighbors'. I also challenge you to embrace this sense of security of both the past and the future. If you haven't come to sit with me and share your history, your concerns, your joys I invite you again. It is in this relationship that we come to know 'I AM'. It is here that stewardship becomes real- we give out of thanks for this presence of God. It is here that we begin to walk together in faith, not by sight. One step at a time, one leaf at a time, one relationship at a time. Let's begin with 'I AM'.

Pastor Jana



**Join your sisters** in Worship and celebration of Human Rights @ the Church Women United Human Rights Day Celebration on Friday, October 6 @ First Nazareth Baptist Church, 2351 Gervais Street, Columbia 29204. Registration is @ 11:30 a.m. with the program starting @ 12 Noon. If you need more information, please contact Shelagh Wirth via phone 803-629-7851 or email [swirth1949@gmail.com](mailto:swirth1949@gmail.com).

**PW 101.4:** PW Connectionalism Mirrors That of the Church.

It is said that Presbyterians approach every task in a way that is decent, in good order, and in community. That helps us better understand why our denomination and Presbyterian Women are organized at all levels of the church: congregation, presbytery (made up of several congregations in a region), synod (made up of several presbyteries), and churchwide (or national). This connectional system allows ideas and information to flow through the organization, strengthening the ministry and mission of all. Our connectional system is undergirded with roles and responsibilities assumed by those called to lead and participate at each level. The circle, at the congregational level, is the foundation of PW, and informs and responds to the ministry of PW. PW at each level is led by a coordinating team. For more information, order the PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop) (\$6; item PWR16120).

## SESSION NEWS

At its September 17 Stated Meeting, your Session

1. Session voted to hear the Safety Committee's full report prior to taking significant actions for safety recommendations.
2. Approved second reading of Christian Education, Fellowship, Missions, and Worship ministries responsibilities for the Policy and Procedures Manual.
3. Approved the worship ministry conducting a fund raiser in November or December to consist of an art fair, silent auction, music, etc. Proceeds will go toward the Debt Free in 3 Program.
4. Signed cards for church members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in recent weeks.
5. Approved the use of our facilities by the Burmese Church in September for a two day retreat.
6. Approved hosting a Trinity Presbytery meeting on November 12, 2019.
7. Approved some additional Sunday School teachers.
8. Received information that adult Sunday School teacher training is on October 14 and will be led by Adrian Bird.
9. Learned that the October Golf Tournament has been cancelled.
10. Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Ken O'Mellan.
11. Elected Mark Wishart and John Whitfield as co-chairs for the Fellowship Ministry.
12. Approved a Called Meeting of Session on September 30 at 9:00 a.m. to welcome new members.

Jim Wilhide,  
Clerk of Session

## ADMINISTRATION - Fred Holbrook, Chair



**149,000 Given**  
**61,000 Pledge**  
**\$210,000 = Total**



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

October 7  
Beverly Hudson

October 14  
Jean Mandeville

October 21  
Janice Reiser

October 28  
Melanie Mixon

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

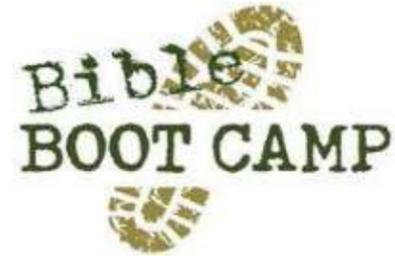
October 7  
Pastor

October 14  
Jean Mandeville

October 21  
Judy Barnes

October 28  
Tish Lowe

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Everyone is invited to join us as we continue our Bible Boot Camp Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. We are learning the Simple Basics of the Bible as we continue our study "The Bible Project". Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation will continue during this time for the youth and if your youth or children would like to be a part of the Worship Teams they will need to be at practice each night.



All adult Sunday School teachers should plan to attend our adult Sunday School Teacher Training event on Sunday, October 14 right after church. A light lunch will be served and then the program will start at 12:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Classroom. The speaker is Adrian Bird, from our sister church at McGregor. He will provide some inspiration and useful teaching tidbits to assist you in your teaching duties. Mark your calendars now! Any questions, contact Ed Keelen.

## WORSHIP



**ACOLYTES**  
**October 14**  
**Sawyer Creighton**

**October 21**  
**Lucy Park**

**October 28**  
**Megan Shuler**

## ADMINISTRATION



**UPDATE**



We are in the process of updating our 2019 Church Directory before Thanksgiving.

If your contact information such as address, phone, email, birthday etc. needs updating, please login to [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org) and update. If you need assistance please contact the church office at 803-772-1761 and we will be happy to update any information.

# Christmas Faith



### WHAT CHRISTMAS CUSTOM RENEWS YOUR FAITH EVERY YEAR?

This is the topic for our 2018 Advent Devotional. We all prepare and celebrate in our own way. Some of our customs stem from childhood. Some started with our marriage or when we first had children. Some customs may be fairly new.

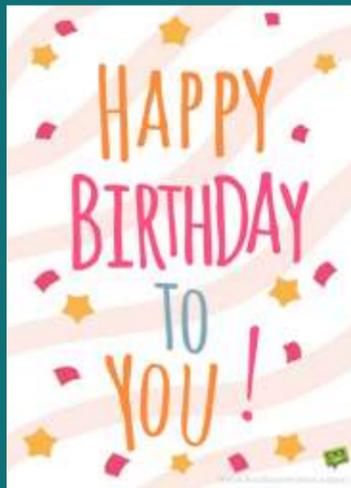
Getting out the decorations, setting up the crèche, attending community celebrations, the Advent Messages in Worship, the beautiful and special Christmas music, are all possible triggers that "bump up" your faith.

Why not share it with your church family? Call the office (803-772-1761) and tell us you would like to contribute to this year's devotional.

If you have an idea but don't feel you can write it yourself, let us know and we will be pleased to help. On the other hand, if you wish to have your writing published exactly as it is written without any editing, we will be happy to honor your request. Just mark **DO NOT EDIT** at the top.

Advent is always such an exciting and spiritual time. Please share the way your faith is renewed with us by November 2nd.

*Advent 2018*



- Charlene Carter 3
- Pete Spearman 5
- Cheryl Brebner 8
- Ron Kesterson 8
- Robin Ashcraft 9
- Inez Elliott 9
- Paula Giugliano 9
- Myrna Gause 10
- Doris Clevenger 11
- John McCulloch 15
- Louis Bussells 16
- Patricia Byrne 19
- Tara Whitfield 22
- Jennifer Swearingen 23
- Gavin Lombardi 24
- Charlotte Swearingen 24
- Tom Falls 27
- Johnadee White 29

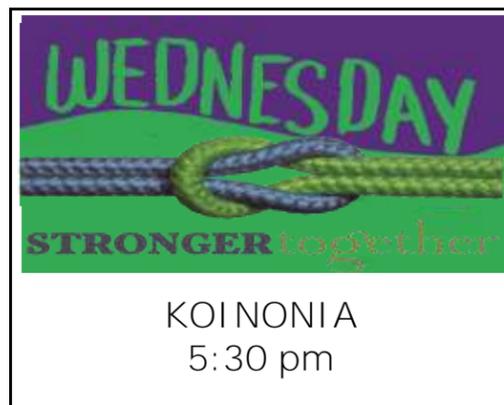
## FELLOWSHIP



**Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Pavilion**

- Country style Ribs
- Roasted Red Potatoes
- Cole Slaw
- Corn on the Cob
- Rolls
- Delicious Desserts.

**Sign up on the attendance sheets or contact the church office!**



- Oct 3 Chin Culture and Church (Mr. Nawl)**  
Menu: Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Vegetable, Garlic Rolls, Dessert
- Oct 10 Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (Mark Smyers)**  
Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Toast, Dessert
- Oct 17 Irmo High School**  
Menu: Beaufort Stew (Shrimp, Sausage, Corn, Potatoes), Cole Slaw, Corn Bread, Dessert
- Oct 24 Lexington County Sheriff's Office (Bryan "Jay" Koon)**  
Menu: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Mac and Cheese, Broccoli, Rolls, Dessert
- Oct 31 Cuban Presentation**  
Menu: Pork Tenderloin, Rice & Gravy, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

## MISSIONS



**Collections for October**  
**Our Sharing God's Love collection:**  
We will be collecting laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid.  
Thank you!



**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.

### September Missions Donations

- \$2,079.08 - Trinity Presbytery
- \$500 - Providence Home
- \$500 - Shepherd's Center

### Providence Men's Home

On Oct. 9, the Missions Ministry will provide a meal to 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 meal for the men who live there.

### Walmart (Ballentine) Backpack Food Collection

Missions members will be helping collect food for the Backpack Program at the Ballentine Walmart on October 21. Assisting in this collection guarantees a portion of the food for the children at Seven Oaks Elementary School. If you're interested in helping, please contact Robert Miller.

### Sharing God's Love Fall Yard Sale

Sharing God's Love will hold their annual Fall Yard Sale on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon at 147 Friarsgate Blvd. Irmo. All proceeds benefit our local families in need that are served by Sharing God's Love!



**We will collect this special offering** in worship on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 7. Donations are used to promote the peace of Christ by addressing injustices in our world. Part of this offering will be designated for use in our own community. Thank you for your contributions to promote peace and reconciliation in our world.

### 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, September 8, 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 Providence Men's Home.
  - \* Collected macaroni and cheese boxes, spaghetti and other items for Sharing God's Love.
  - \* Packed food backpacks for the children of Seven Oaks Elementary School.
  - \* Missions members provided a welcome to school breakfast for the teachers and staff of Seven Oaks Elementary School.
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and gave donations this past month, you are a blessing to those in need.



**The October Golf Tournament has been cancelled!**

