

The Leaf

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

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DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm 6:00 Adult Christmas Party	3 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	4 10:30 Support Group 7:00 YOGA	5 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:30 Chancel Choir	6	7 6:45 Lanterns	8 9:00 ADVENT ADVENTURE
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Musical Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Prime Rib Dinner	10 10:30 Bible Study	11 7:00 YOGA	12 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:30 Chancel Choir	13 6:00 Hannah Circle	14 6:45 Lanterns	15 5:30 p.m. Staff & Session Christmas Drop-In
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	17 10:30 Bible Study 5:00 Session Meeting	18 7:00 YOGA	19 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:30 Chancel Choir	20	21 6:45 Lanterns	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Joy Offering 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service Church office open until noon	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 6:45 Lanterns	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm	31 New Year's Eve Church office open until noon	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](http://www.pcusa.org/misionconnections/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

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



ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 2 - 1st week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 9 - 2nd week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Christmas Music Service

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 3rd week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 23 - 4th week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas

A few weeks ago, your pastors were given a gift, a basket full of goodies that were nothing remarkable and yet something amazing at the same time. I can only imagine why the gift giver chose that moment to honor her pastors with such thoughtfulness. But it brought me to tears. After the gluten free pretzels were long eaten, one particular item spoke to me, a package full of different types of glue. In it a poem read this, "The glue is for when you are falling apart and life seems somewhat unsteady. Just smear some on and wait a bit and then you will feel more ready".

There are times this Advent season when each of us will feel the need for glue in our lives. Some from the loss of our loved ones, others from grasping with church change, and even some who long for God's Kingdom to come. Some of us will even have to scrape off the old dried glue to make the new glue stick! The good news is that the glue we seek doesn't come in a bottle or a stick (so if you are fresh out, no worries, unlike batteries on Christmas morning)! The glue we need comes in a Savior, as a child, born in the manger, waiting for us as we approach Christmas Morning. It comes in the hope of a King, born in Bethlehem, lover of God's church. In fact, the glue is delivered long before we knew we needed putting back together. That's how this basket showed up on Alice and I's doorsteps. It was delivered by hands long before we knew this was what we needed.

This advent season, if you find yourself in need of some glue, don't feel alone. This sometimes happens when we learn to walk on faith and not by sight, we trip and we stumble and sometimes we fall and need to be put back together. But this need for 'togetherness' is in fact an invitation this Christmas season. It's an invitation to lean in on the one who desires to hold us together, our Savior. It is also an invitation to be one another's glue. That way when we trip and stumble, we can be there to catch each other, long before we knew we needed someone there to catch us.

This Advent, May we gather at the stable bare and await the coming of the babe who I pray, will bind us together in love and harmony this Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas , Church family, Merry Christmas.
Pastor Jana

MISSIONS



Collections for December
Our Sharing God's Love collection:
We will be collecting
canned hams.
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.

Providence Men's Home

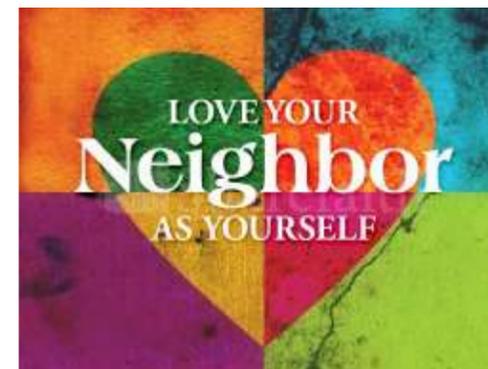
The Missions Ministry led by Robert and Kitsie Miller will prepare and serve two meals this month to the men of Providence Home. They will provide a meal on the second Tuesday (Dec. 11) as well as a meal on Christmas Day. If you would like to help with either of these meals, please contact Robert or Kitsie. Thank you to the Millers and everyone who helps provide and serve meals to the men who live there.

DONATIONS

December Missions Donations

\$2,079.08 Trinity Presbytery
\$ 800.00 Presbyterian Foreign Missions

Soup Kitchen 2018 - Oliver Gospel Mission
Thank you to everyone who helped make sandwiches for the men of Oliver Gospel Mission at Centennial ARP Church. Our next scheduled time is 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 Tuesday night meal as well as a Thanksgiving meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.
- * Collected Laundry detergent and other items to Sharing God's Love.
- * Packed food backpacks for the children 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- Dec. 2nd: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 pm
Dec. 8th: Advent Adventure - You can register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/followthestar>
Dec. 9th: Children's Worship team will be a part of the worship service. We will practice at 9:15 a.m.
Bible Bootcamp Fellowship Event
Dec. 16th: Bible Bootcamp/JAM/ Children's Worship Team Practice - 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 23rd: Bible Bootcamp Christmas Party

YOUTH and CONFIRMATION ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE:

- Dec. 2nd: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 9th: Youth Worship team will be a part of the worship service. We will practice at 9:15 a.m.
Dec. 16th: Bible Bootcamp/Confirmation/ Youth Worship Team Practice - 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 23rd: Bible Bootcamp Christmas Party



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.

ACOLYTES

- Dec. 9
Josie Werner
Dec. 16
Sawyer Creighton
Dec. 23
Lucy Park
Dec. 30
Finn Bundrick

SESSION NEWS

At its last Stated Meeting, on November 19, your Session...

1. Heard that Boot Camp is going well and is averaging 16-20 in the adult class, 10 in JAM and 5 in the Confirmation class. where new members are attending and old members are growing in Biblical growth and knowledge. Thanks be to God!
2. Learned that our Candlelight Christmas worship service will be at 5:00 p.m. based on the worship committee's recommendations.
3. Learned that the Presbyterian Women are placing Thank offering envelopes and Missions is placing Thornwell envelopes in the pew pockets in the Narthex. We were reminded to be sure we are utilizing the correct envelope during this season of thanksgiving.
4. Learned that Presbyterian Women will be seeking help in securing the items for the health kits for Church Women United in the coming year.
5. Heard that vitalization planning is scheduled with the Presbytery for January 2019 and gave thanks for the opportunity to seek God's will for SOPC.
6. Heard a report from the Task Force for Reconciliation. They have met with each of the Sunday School classes and explained that their goals are to gather information and perspectives from the affected parties to identify mistakes made and how processes can be improved in the future. The task force will then make a report and statement to the ministers and session to help restore trust and enable relationships to grow in grace and understanding.
7. Approved the NANA group using the Fellowship Hall for their memorial program on January 12.
8. Signed a card for a member who had a death in her family recently. They also heard health updates and prayer requests for several members.
9. Were reminded that Sgt. Lee Barrett will be speaking about safety at our December Session meeting at 5:00 p.m.
10. Discussed first draft of budget for 2019 year.
11. Voted to hold a prayer vigil for thanksgiving for the life, growth and blessings of SOPC and to pray for the blessings and needs of 2019.
12. Celebrated a successful Holiday Market and the progress towards Debt Free in Three.
13. Heard the highlights of the November 13 Trinity Presbytery meeting.

Jim Wilhide,
Clerk of Session



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. 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!

RECONCILIATION TASK FORCE (RTF)



A Church Reconciliation Task Force was formed to gather information and perspectives about any congregational concerns, especially with change and transition.

RTF members: Tish Lowe, John Whitfield, Jeanne LeBoeuf and Frank Sheppard.

Feel free to contact any of them by Dec. 7th to set up a meeting to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Happy Birthday

- 2 Hal Bowman
- Jeffrey Brannon
- Jim Mullins
- 4 Heather Noë
- 6 Willie Hale
- 7 Allen Burnside
- Jo Groce
- 8 Bubba Locklair
- 9 Julie McElveen
- 11 Janice Reiser
- 14 Anne Hill
- 18 Frank Sheppard
- 19 Marshall Robinson
- 20 Carol Haimberger
- 21 Ken Gasque
- 27 Jeanne LeBoeuf
- Jim Taylor
- 28 Emalee Dillard
- Tiffany Kohn
- Kathy Morganelli

FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS PRIME RIB DINNER: is at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 9th. 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 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW 101.5: PW 101.2 introduced the idea that PW groups at the congregational level consist of circles. The circle is the foundation of all that PW does. PW 101.4 introduced the idea that PW is connectional and that the PW in the Congregation (PWC) is connected to PW at each level. To elaborate: The PWC group informs and responds to the ministry of PW at all levels of the church: local, presbytery, synod and churchwide.

The PWC has representation and contact with the PW in the Presbytery (PWP); the PWP connects to PW in the Synod (PWS); and the PWS connects to PW Churchwide. Information and programming moves in all directions throughout the structure, with local and regional work impacting national work, and national work informing regional and local work. There is good work happening in PW all of the time, from the mission of a local church in Boise to the fulfillment of a Thank Offering grant in Sudan! In 1988, Christie Loney wrote: The circle can be a place that challenges us to stretch beyond our known limits. Within the confines of a loving, accepting community we can take risky steps, fail and not feel foolish. This enables us to move beyond the safe place, reach out to others and have our faith tested. In the circle, Christian leadership is born, nurtured and sent forth into ministry. Maybe you are a young woman, a woman in her mid-life crisis, a businesswoman, a working mother, a single parent, an elderly woman, - each of you has a place in a circle - A local church may have a number of circles, each one unique and different. Yet a commonality binds them together.



2019 Flower Calendar

The flowers in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings are beautiful and are enjoyed by our congregation each week. If you would like to donate flowers please contact the church office or sign the flower calendar located in the Narthex.

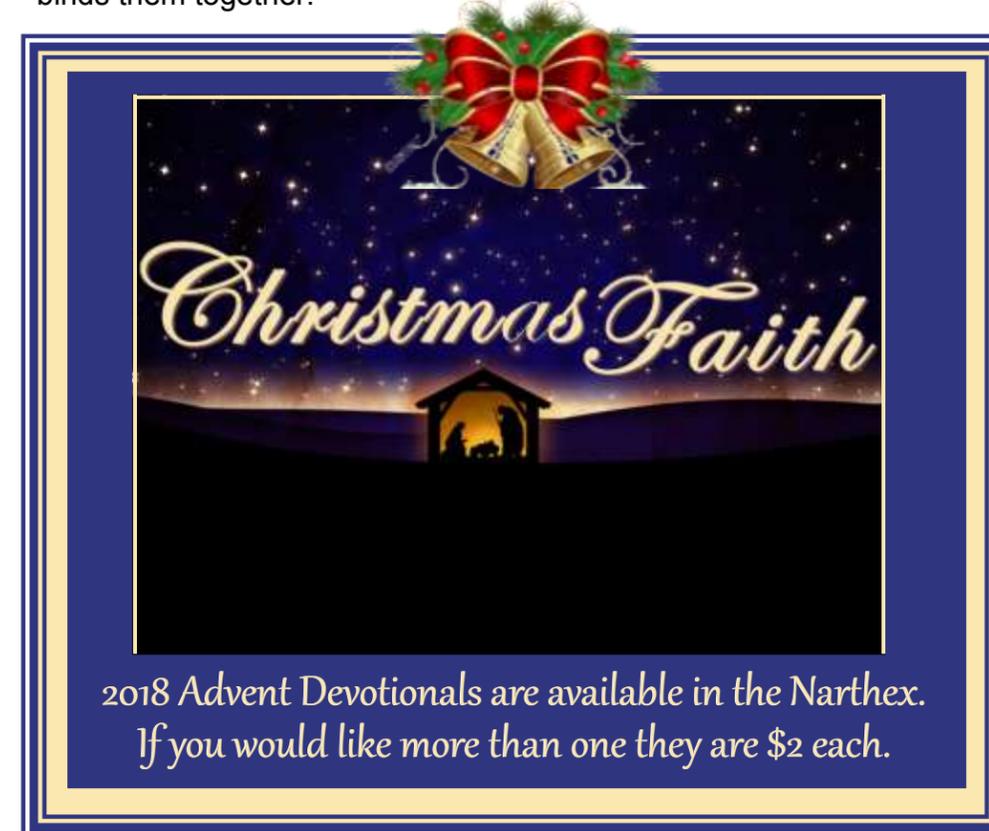
WORSHIP



On Sunday, December 9 our Seven Oaks church family will gather for a very special service of worship and music celebrating **The Promised One!** Our sanctuary will be filled with inspiring music foretelling Jesus' coming, announcing His birth and sharing the good news of Jesus' love! The Chancel Choir, Covenant Ringers and Children's Worship Teams will join their voices and instruments in this wonderful service of music. This will be a service of worship you will not want to miss!



Our December 9 Prime Rib Dinner will be followed by our annual Round the Table Sing! This is our chance to sing together the songs and carols of Christmas, and wish each other a very Merry Christmas! This year's sing will also feature Barbara Howse-Diemer, a professional dancer who will share her gift of liturgical dance with us. Ring in the season with this great night of fun and song!



Please be sure to pick up your Church Directory for 2019. They are located in the Narthex.

ADMINISTRATION