

The Leaf

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

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The Leaf

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JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 12:15 Chair YOGA	3 1:30 SOPC Quilters	4 6:45 Lanterns	5
6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers	7 10:30 Bible Study 4:00 Congreg. Care Christian Education 5:30 Good News, Worship, B&G, Admin. Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship	8 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Comm. 4:00 PW CT 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 YOGA	9 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	10 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	11 6:45 Lanterns	12
13 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Cookies/Conversation 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm.	14 10:30 Bible Study	15 7:00 YOGA	16 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	17	18 6:45 Lanterns	19 8:30 PWCT
20 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers	21 10:30 Bible Study 6:00 Session Meeting	22 7:00 YOGA	23 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	24	25 6:45 Lanterns	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Annual Meeting 12:00 Congregational Luncheon 5:30 Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm.	28 10:30 Bible Study	29 7:00 YOGA	30 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	31		

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AS WE GO INTO 2019,
WITH OPEN HEARTS & THANKFULLNESS FOR OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.
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/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



WE WANT YOU
AT BIBLE
BOOTCAMP!

You will want to come to BootCamp on January 13, **even if you haven't been before!** Alice & Jana will feed us in our faith and a smoked BBQ meal will feed our bodies. All ages welcome on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and BRING A FRIEND.



Epiphany is the day when the wise men were thought to have visited the Messiah. Christmas is not over until Epiphany, when they had a revelation that this infant was no ordinary child. It is also why we sing of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Come be a part of our special Worship Service on January 6.



We will begin a new support group in January for anyone who is hurting because of the death of a loved one, divorce, illness or any reason you may be feeling down. We will normally meet the first Tuesday of the month in the library off the narthex at 10:30 a.m. but in January we will meet on the 8th. Please come and join us if you would like to talk with others to get you through a difficult time in your life.



Monday Morning
Bible Study

Bible Study will begin January 7th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Classroom. We are continuing our study of Genesis and will have a review of the first 35 chapters at our first meeting so that you will be able to move forward with us to complete the book. Genesis is a great book for stories, you will enjoy the fellowship and time of sharing. Please come join us.



SOPC is preparing for the election of our new body of elders...is God calling YOU? Let's talk about what this even means...

Presbyterian is a Government Word!

"Presbyterian" comes from the Greek word "presbuteros" which simply means "elder." In other words, "Presbyterian" refers to how we govern ourselves as part of our theological tradition of being "Reformed and always being Reformed."

As Presbyterians, we believe that all of humanity is broken and sinful inherently, therefore in our government, which is based on what we see in Scripture, we seek to distribute power using elders - Ruling Elders and or Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The elders vote on their conscience for the way God is leading the church, not based on how the congregation may feel about a particular issue. The congregation has vote on issues on acquiring or relinquishing debt or church property, electing ruling elders/trustees or deacons, changing pastoral relationships, or seeking exemptions from Presbytery from particular rules in the constitution. If you as a congregant want to have a say in important decisions that are made, God may be calling you to serve as an elder!

A Constitutional Church

The Presbyterian Church (USA), the denomination that Seven Oaks is a part of, is what we call a constitutional church. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the authority for our faith and life together. The Constitution helps order the life of the church and provides guidance to us. The Constitution does not in any way replace the Bible, but should point us back to and increase our fidelity to the Scriptures themselves.

Our Constitution consists of two parts - Part 1: The Book of Confessions and Part 2: The Book of Order. The Book of Confessions contains ten historic confessions of the Church - The Nicene Creed; The Apostles' Creed; The Scots Confession; The Heidelberg Catechism; The Second Helvetic Confession; The Westminster Confession, including The Shorter Catechism and The Larger Catechism; The Theological Declaration of Barmen; The Confession of 1967; and A Brief Statement of Faith - PCUSA and the Belhar Confession. All of these confessions give guidance to the church about what we believe the Scriptures teach, spoken to particular times and people in history.

The Book of Order contains our Foundations for Presbyterian Polity; Form of Government; Directory for Worship; and Rules of Discipline. The Book of Order does what its title suggests, provides guidance for the nuts and bolts of the operation of the church in a way that is decent and orderly, the catchphrase for the PC(USA)!

Both parts of the Constitution will be provided to you as a current member of session and are available for download on the PCUSA website.

Denominational Structure

The PCUSA has "councils" (called "governing bodies" in the old Form of Government) to provide for the governing of the church. Councils increase in authority as you move up from the elder, congregation, Presbytery, Synod and finally with the General Assembly being the highest council in the denomination.

All of these councils consist of ordained elders - Ruling Elders (you!) and Ministers (briefly known as teaching elders). Every individual serving the church as a representative has equal vote on all councils of the church. This is truly the strength of our polity (government) - that power is spread out and not in the hands of any one person. We are all sinners in need of God's grace and, as Presbyterians, we believe because of that simple fact we best discern the will of God together by hearing multiple voices in the decision making and governmental processes of the councils of our church.

Responsibilities of Ruling Elders

Once you've been elected to serve as a Ruling Elder, specifically as a member of the Session of SOPC for the next three years you have certain responsibilities. This does not mean, however, that when your term on Session ends you will no longer be an ordained Ruling Elder. Therefore, it is important to review the biblical responsibilities of elders - for both now and in your continued ministry after your term ends - found in your Bible and the Book of Order.

MISSIONS



Collections for January - Our Sharing God's Love collection:

We will be collecting full sized toiletries. Shampoo, soap, toothpaste deodorant etc. 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 a meal on the second Tuesday, January 8. If you would like to help with 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.

December Missions Donations

\$2,079.08 Trinity Presbytery

\$800 Presbyterian Foreign Missions

\$2,000 Mission Lexington- Seven Oaks Mission Grant Recipient

Christmas Joy Offering was received

Soup Kitchen 2019 - 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 Christmas meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.

* Collected canned hams and other items for 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.



The Winter Session of the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews will be January 15 - March 12. Shepherd's Center is an interfaith learning program for adults 50 and older. SOPC is a sponsoring congregation. This winter there will be classes on *The Geology of South Carolina*, *The Muppets: An American Cultural Institution*, *Finding Your Roots: Genealogy Tips*, *The Life and Theology of Paul Tillich*, and others. The programs will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. The registration fee is \$35.00. Registration is limited to 285 so early registration is important. Brochures are in the Narthex or you may contact Hal Bowman for more information. You may also find more information at shepherdscenterofstandrews.org.



January 13
Kaelin Pilkington
January 20
Megan Shuler
January 27
Sawyer Creighton



January 6
Kitsie Miller
January 13
Mary Dempster
January 20
Janice Reiser
January 27
Marion Watson-Wishart

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all of our parents and volunteers that made this year's Advent a true Adventure. Our children were excited and are still talking about this event. We are looking forward to the many wonderful things **2019** will bring our Children's Ministry!



THANK YOU'S

Our thanks to our church family for your loving concern with our family's recent loss. Your cards and kind words were greatly appreciated.
Merry Christmas! John and Tara Whitfield

Very Dear Friends,
Words can't describe my thankfulness for your show of love and compassion during Billy's three year illness. Your lovely cards, calls, visits and delicious food made the journey lighter. Thank you for your continuous support.
Sincerely, Alida Rawl

Thank you to the Monday Morning Bible Study group for my great Christmas gift. Lizzie loves her new pajamas to wipe her eye on. She says they are really soft! I promise to journal harder since I have a new one and will enjoy lunch at Fresco's several times. You are all very special to me and I love sharing our Monday mornings together.
Grace and Peace, Alice Odell

Thank you to everyone for the outpouring of Christmas love and goodies. Your kindness and generosity continue to amaze me and are a witness to God's love in your life.
Merry Christmas, Pastor Jana

Below are three Biblical passages for you to read and reflect on.

Titus 1:5-2:1, (2:2-10), 2:11-15 - Paul's instructions to Titus about his leadership in the church

1 Peter 5:1-11 - Peter's instructions to elders

Acts 20:17-38 - Paul's final meeting with/instructions to the elders in Ephesus

Below is how the Book of Order defines "Ruling Elder" (emphasis in bold added).

G-2.0301 Ruling Elder Defined

"As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office."

Reflection and Prayer:

- Do you have any questions concerning Presbyterian government or the role/responsibilities of Ruling Elders? Ask your pastors or current elders!
- Did you read anything challenging, convicting or surprising, in Scripture or the Book of Order, concerning church government/elders?
- Spend time in prayer, asking for God's presence and guidance with you in your ministry in the church and the ministry of our entire Session. You do not have to be an elder in order to be in ministry. This is only the way our Lord speaks to some in order to steer the church and follow God. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this faithful way!
- Make note of any questions or insights that you might share with others.



The strains of Silent Night are still ringing in my ears despite the radio stations having reverted back to 'normal' music. Is your tree still up? Are your lights still lit? I'm fighting the urge to remove them and tidy my house back up but the fact of the matter is that Christmas isn't officially over until January 6th, Epiphany Sunday. But what is Epiphany Sunday you might ask?

In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son, "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."" (Mark 1:9-11, ESV)

In Western Christianity and for us this Sunday, The term epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "appearance," "manifestation," or "revelation" and is commonly linked in Western churches with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child (Matthew 2:1-12). Through the Magi, Jesus Christ revealed himself to the Gentiles "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.""

I will coin this Sunday 'gift Sunday' as you will receive a gift for being in worship. Like the star in the sky, this gift of revelation will guide you through this coming year and provide a path in which each person in particular will walk by faith and not by sight. Come, friends of Christ, and meet the new born king anew.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

- 5 Bill Bailey
June Burkhalter
Linda Schiesser
7 Mae Leviner
8 Cathy Keelen
10 Crawford Bookout
Karan Bundrick
11 Carol Griffith
14 Banks Robinson
21 Will Watkins
22 Rachel Cheung
23 Michaela Craven
Barbara Fowler
Janice Holbrook
25 Aussie Noë
John Vousden
28 Jacob Schwartz
29 Virginia Martinez



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.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Ministry hopes all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the Adult Christmas Party and Annual Prime Rib Dinner. 2019 holds many opportunities for congregational fellowship. While we finish up work on the calendar, please let any of the ministry know about ideas or recommendations you have: Carol Griffith, Cathy Keelen, Molly Jackson, Paula Giuliano, Tom Shuler, Banks Robinson, Jason Bundrick, John Whitfield, Mark Wishart and, of course, our pastors. We would like to hear from you!

As we get ready to kickoff a New Year, the Fellowship Ministry would like to say: Thank you! to the many folks who cooked, baked, cleaned, shopped and otherwise contributed to our events last year. We are in need of additional help to cleanup after meals this coming year, please let one of the ministry members know if you are available to help.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE invites you to Restaurant Supper Club for 6. Eat out locally once per month February, March, and April 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.

Please call or email Mark Wishart by January 20 so we can have the rotation to you by Feb. 1. (mandm123@sc.rr.com or 803-467-1730).



Wednesdays

(January 16 – March 6)

The committee is looking at some of the following topics for Wednesday night programs:

- Shaw Industries Group on St. Andrews Road (expansion & hiring)
- Christian Counseling (services, trends)
- Valentines Dinner (Love One Another)
- Laughter and Lessons - "Andy Griffith" or "I Love Lucy" video segments plus discussion of lessons learned. (1 or 2 sessions)
- Thornwell (housed at Seven Oaks)
- Zoo Slide Program
- St. Andrews Road Corridor Revitalization
- Chin Church will share its culture with us by cooking a traditional Burmese meal and dressing in traditional clothing.

Come enjoy delicious food and sweet fellowship as we learn and grow together.

Administration received this email on Dec. 13th:

My name is Aisha Newton, and I'm the communications manager here at The Church of the Covenant. I'm contacting you because I'm looking to revamp our church bulletin and I'm inspired by yours; I wanted to know if you could send it in a word document? If so that would be great. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Aisha Newton

Communications Manager, The Church of the Covenant

NEWS FROM YOUR SESSION

At its last Stated Meeting, on December 17, your Session . . .

1. Heard a 2 hour report and recommendations about church safety from Sgt. Lee Barrett of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department.
2. Heard that the Task Force for Reconciliation has more meetings scheduled in the near future and they will have a final report in January.
3. Approved a motion to adopt the revised budget prepared by the Administration Ministry and to present that budget at the congregational meeting on January 27, 2019.
4. Approved having a church luncheon after the congregational meeting on January 27.
5. Approved Scouts of America (girls) to participate in the worship service on February 10.
6. Heard about the missions projects we are supporting.
7. Learned that our next Family Promise week will be April 7-14, 2019.
8. Learned that the Building and Grounds Ministry is planning a church workday in early Spring.
9. Learned from the Good News Ministry that more greeters are needed. If you are interested in helping as a greeter, contact Elder Jim Taylor.
10. Approved the Koinonia speakers and topics for the Winter 2019 session.
11. Approved the VBS curriculum (*Athens* by Group Publishing Company) for the Summer of 2019.
12. Signed cards for members and friends who have experienced joys or sorrows in recent days.
13. Heard plans for Cookies and Conversation on January 13, which is in recognition of Volunteers.
14. Learned that more volunteers are needed after Koinonia and Church Night Suppers. If you are willing to help, please contact Mark Wishart, Fellowship Chairman.
15. If you have ideas for menus or programs for Church Night Suppers, please contact Mark Wishart.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW 101.6: We Gather: Presbyterian Women is connectional. And that means we gather! This is such an important part of our shared journey of faith that coordinating teams at each level of the organization (congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide) are equally tasked with promoting "attendance at PW events at the presbytery, synod and churchwide levels." What happens at gatherings? Depends! Sometimes a business meeting is part of a presbytery or synod gathering; the business meeting deals with, well, the business of the group, which often includes the installation of new leadership. Gatherings are also the place to learn about the organization (and the organization's resources such as *Horizons* magazine and Bible study, which are promoted by the *Horizons* representative) and activities of the organization (Bible study, service projects and more). Workshops, presentations, community projects, stewardship opportunities, Bible study and fellowship are important components of gatherings. Gatherings are serious business in the most joyful, PW Purpose-full way! Stay connected with your PW circle so you can learn when your presbytery or synod plan to gather as gathering frequencies differ by region. At the national level, Presbyterian Women gather every three years. In 2018 Presbyterian Women gathered in Louisville. In 2019, Synod of South Atlantic (you are part of this synod) will gather at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA, for their triennial gathering. For more information, see www.pwtrinity.com.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED invite you to join us at our Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon on Friday, January 25, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m. at Brookland Conference Center, Sunset Blvd. Tickets are \$15, mail a check today to Shelagh Wirth and come join your sisters in Christ from multiple denominations as we celebrate church women in Columbia SC. We will install all officers, including SC State officers: President, Shelagh Wirth; President Elect, Cynthia Robertson; Treasurer, Joyce Lybrand; Nominating Chair, Linda Kennedy.