

# The Leaf

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

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Columbia, SC

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## MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 PRAYER VIGIL	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Spaghetti Dinner and Dance	4 10:30 Bible Study 4:00 Congreg. Care, Christian Ed. 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Missions 6:30 Ministry Chairs 7:15 Fellowship	5 Grief Support 7:00 YOGA	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 12:15 Chair YOGA 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	7 SOPC Quilters	8 6:45 Lanterns	9
10 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:15 BOOTCAMP	11 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Administration	12 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 YOGA	13 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	14 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	15 6:45 Lanterns	16 Trinity Presbytery Women
17 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers <b>12:15 St. Patrick's Meal</b>	18 10:30 Bible Study 6:30 Session Meeting	19 7:00 YOGA	20 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	21	22 6:45 Lanterns	23
24 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP	25 10:30 Bible Study	26 7:00 YOGA	27 12:15 Chair YOGA 7:30 Chancel Choir	28	29 6:45 Lanterns	30
31 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers	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.					

«PRAY FOR»



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



## World Prayer Day Friday, March 1, 2019

Join the world in offering prayers of joy and concerns to the Lord. The Sanctuary will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will offer a drive-thru prayer time of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Tell your neighbors or bring them when you come!



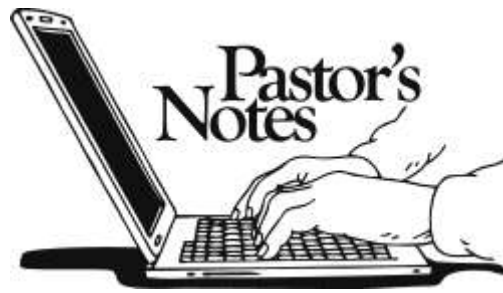
Our Children and Youth would like to serve you at a Spaghetti Dinner and Dance on Sunday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost but donations will be accepted for our upcoming mission trips, camps and conferences. Our children and youth will be sharing their experiences from past trips. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend. 772-1761

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- ♦ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ♦ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ♦ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ♦ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ♦ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ♦ Fast from complaints & contemplate simplicity.
- ♦ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ♦ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ♦ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ♦ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ♦ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.





Can you believe that the month of March brings not only spring time beauty (hello pollen), but also the Lenten season of devotion? This month is upon us and this article seeks to help us all become clear about what is in store this Lent. There is much to be grateful for in the life of God's church as we kick off with a powerful Ash Wednesday worship on March 6<sup>th</sup>. During this season we will explore many facets of church growth together.

**Vitalization:** Let's begin at the beginning....Last year your session approved SOPC to participate in something called 'Revitalization', a program with Trinity Presbytery and churches across our bounds seeking God's call to the church of the future. The vitalization program is similar to the journey the United Methodists have taken to bring new life to their churches across America. This vitalization began during Lent of 2018 and included defining and exploring the 7 Marks of Vitalization: Lifelong discipleship, Intentional Evangelism, Outward Focus, Servant Leadership, Spirit Inspired Worship, Caring Relationships, and Ecclesial Health. As part of this process the session and congregation explored SOPC history and what we typically do/don't do well, explored our communities, and concluded with a survey that examined our marks in numerical form. The results of this survey are now in our hands as we enter into 2019 Lent. Session is now leading us through this year's Lenten process with a new vigor of exploration. During Lent we will explore once again the 7 marks of vitalization. Whereas last year we studied the more 'negative' side of the 7 marks (for instance lifelong discipleship was compared to complacent Christian piety or morals keeping), this Lent, we will be focusing on the positive side of these marks of vitalization (lifelong discipleship now looks at being and creating lifelong learners in our midst). We seek to define how we will now live into these positive marks of vitalization. Most of this work will be heard in Lenten worship services with a culmination of session seeking our path into the future with regards to our survey results. Our scores will help define what SOPC will set as goals for the coming years, thanks be to God.

**Worship:** During Lent we will explore God's vitalization through the 7 marks during worship as mentioned above. We will also be exploring new worship space in the fellowship hall as the renovation progresses. Stay tuned to when these changes might happen and know that we will remain in the sanctuary as long as we are able.

**Learning About One Another:** The recent task force has encouraged me to lead teaching opportunities for the congregation. Last year the vitalization included 8 long weeks of specific teaching. This year, I am offering a 2 week inter-generational Sunday School in the fellowship hall on March 3 and 10<sup>th</sup>. During this class we will explore why each of us are the way we are based on our own generational upbringing as well as how we can best be church together with these differences and similarities in mind. The youth will fundraise with morning goodies for sale, so come, learn, and grow with all generations from the church beginning at 9:45 a.m. Your input will be vital to this opportunity!

**Devotions:** Lent is a period of reflection and spiritual growth as we walk alongside Jesus' footsteps to the cross. To explore our own paths of faith, each Sunday the congregation will be provided a Lenten scriptural journey to study in the bulletin. If you want to dig deeper, please purchase the book by Mark Tidsworth, '40 Days of Prayer' and study these brief but poignant self-reflections on walking in faith. Let Alice or I know if you need help obtaining a copy! Like last year, a thought on these scriptures will be posted through social media for you to interact with others on this journey.



**MARCH ACOLYTES**

- 10 - Finn Bundrick
- 17 - Kaelin Pilkington
- 24 - Megan Shuler
- 31- Sawyer Creighton

**FELLOWSHIP**



**ST. PATRICK'S LUNCHEON**  
March, 17, 2019

Come to the Fellowship Hall for lunch after worship on March 17 for a traditional Irish meal with corned beef and cabbage. There will be a table that the youth will be selling yummy desserts as part as their summer trips fundraising.



**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
Saturday, May 25, 2019

Watch history come to life right here in Columbia! Tour four historic homes in downtown Columbia, eat lunch in the Carriage House and fellowship with women of SOPC! Save the date. If you have questions, ask Judy Barnes.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

The Building and Grounds Committee has set the date! Please come on Saturday, April 6 at 8:00 a.m. and help us clean up, clean out, and paint. Coffee and snacks will be available at 8:00 a.m. for early birds. Bring your work gloves, wear old clothes, and come ready to work hard! Come join us as we clean up the campus, clean out the storage areas, and tidy up and paint some windows. Thank you in advance for all the help we will be getting from you, our members!



**Boy Scout Creates Butterfly Conservation Garden**

The Columbia Presbyterian Community has a new butterfly conservation garden, thanks to the Eagle Scout project of Boy Scout William Brock. The center courtyard was determined to be the perfect spot due to the abundance of sunlight and plant life. During the planning phase, William formed a close connection with resident Nancy Humphreys. An avid gardener, Nancy overseas the resident Garden Club and beautification of the courtyard. In gratitude for Nancy's guidance, William installed a beautiful plaque dedicating the project to her. The Columbia Community thanks William Brock, the Boy Scouts and their families, and Nancy Humphreys for making this project possible and creating this beautiful garden for all to enjoy!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Kathy Locklair	1
Jane Pendleton	1
Elizabeth Taylor	1
Alene Rogers	5
David Locklair	7
Jonathan Locklair	7
Shelagh Wirth	8
Betty Anderson	9
Greg Mixon	9
Brenda Turner	10
Finn Creighton	13
Marty Spearman	17
David Waugh	21
Dick Schneider	22
Savannah Tapler	24
Kyle Mixon	28
Bev Elbert	29



Thank you to our loving church family for all the kindness that was expressed recently when my sister passed away. The beautiful cards, calls of encouragement and other acts of kindness were greatly appreciated.

**Marilyn O'Mellan**

SOPC family, Thank you to everyone for their prayers, and cards during my recent surgery. Also, sincere thanks for your sympathy cards and prayers at the time of my grandson, **Aleko's death. He was 24. It's Prayers and caring friends that get us through our living trials.**

Nancy Humphreys

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

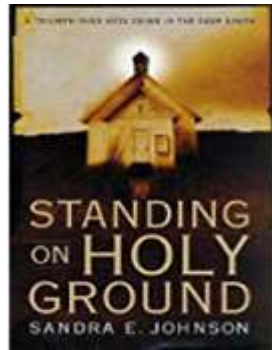
Join your PW sisters at the PWP Annual Gathering on Saturday, March 16. You will attend a beautiful worship service, a business meeting and then choose one of the workshops below to attend. Lunch is included in the \$15 registration fee. Please see your circle moderator for more information.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Onsite registration starts at 10:00 am.

Ladies, as we join together to **Create with Card Craft**  
Let's live into "LOVE CARVED IN STONE"

With an Attitude of Gratitude as we Make a Card and Take a card to give away with a tea bag tucked inside that says you are my cup of tea.



Come talk with Sandra Johnson, author, at a give and take study. Sandra has written two books regarding the race relations "Standing on Holy Ground" and "Flowers are for the Living". Listen to her story as love triumphs over hate in the South.

Join the Rev Jana Creighton as she leads us into the 2019/2020 Horizons Bible Study "Love Carved in Stone"



## Holy Week

**Holy Week:** April 14 is Palm Sunday where Bootcamp will be hosting a Seder Meal for anyone who wishes to partake. Please register by Sunday, March 24th. No matter your participation in Bootcamp, this will be an informative and experiential way to dig into Christ's walk to the cross. See the blurb below to explore what a Seder is and why we are participating in this journey. This entire week will also be a week of *reflection and prayer* as we explore the 7 marks of vitalization in our own growth culminating of course on Easter, April 21<sup>st</sup>. I will be present in the sanctuary (if open), if not in the FH, each morning this week from 9-10 to pray with you and alongside of you.

**Good Friday:** Your pastors are part of a community pastoral support group which some of you witnessed last Good Friday at Pine Grove AME church (near Costco). We are in process of arranging a similar worship on April 19, Good Friday, and hope that all of you would come and worship the final moments of Christ's journey together as the body across all denominations. I am excited about how God is at work in our midst and I long to walk beside each of you growing this Lenten season. Bring a friend and let's explore Christ's call together!

**The Festival of Passover:** Passover is the oldest and most important religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. Passover is actually composed of two festivals, The Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover. The festival of Passover, known as Pesach, begins at sunset on the 14th of Nisan (usually in March or April) and marks the beginning of a seven day celebration that includes the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The focal point of Passover is a communal meal, called the Seder (which means "order," because of the fixed order of service), which is a time of rejoicing and celebration at the deliverance for the Hebrews that God accomplished in the exodus.

Unlike the most Holy days of Christianity that are observed in Church, since the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD 70 Passover has been celebrated in the home with family and friends as they eat a meal together. It is customary to invite guests to share the Seder meal, especially newcomers to the community. The actual Seder meal in most Jewish homes is an elaborate feast, with food, games for the children, and plenty of time to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. It is not unusual for a Seder to last three to four hours (we will not last this long).

The Seder involves everyone present to share the story by participating in the Haggadah (Heb: "telling," the printed order of service, reading, and songs). While the father or grandfather is usually the leader of the service, others have roles as well. The mother of the home lights the festival candles that signal the beginning of Passover, the youngest child asks the four questions, the children help search for the hidden symbolic piece of Matzah, unleavened bread, and open the door for Elijah, the parents or the grandparents tell the story of the exodus, and various others are designated to read or lead certain portions of the service.

Passover is really more than a festival. It is an elaborate teaching experience, especially for the children, intended to call people to their identity as the People of God. By using all of the senses, the Passover Seder tells the story of God's grace in history and calls the participants to experience and share in the story as their own story. Passover becomes more than simply a service or a time; it becomes a way to confess faith in the One who has acted in history, and for Jews expresses the hope that He will continue to act in bringing deliverance to all people everywhere. For Christians, the Passover remembers the renewed covenant with God's people made by Jesus Christ. The Passover also looks forward to the complete redemption upon the return of our Savior.

Please Join Us for our Spring Luncheon  
Celebrating Church Women United!

Salads, Sweets & Sisterhood

**Saturday, April 13, 2019 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.**

11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Gathering

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch & Program

Brookland Banquet Conference Center

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 6, 2018**

**Absolutely no late registrations or walk-ins will be accepted!**

Registration forms are available in the Narthex and in the church office.  
Please complete and send with your check in the amount of \$17.00 per person  
Check payable to CWU & mail to:

Mrs. Shelagh Wirth, 110 Robin Forest Drive, West Columbia SC 29170

If you are paying for more than one (1) person, please send separate registrations for each person with your check. Thank you.

## NEWS FROM YOUR SESSION

At its last meeting on February 11, 2019

1. Approved the establishment of a Safety Team which will include ushers and elders.
2. Approved locking all doors on the campus after the worship service begins.
3. Heard Frank Sheppard explain legal liability in relation to our Insurance Coverage. Frank said, "We are well insured at this church."
4. Discussed several sections of the Safety Committee report and designated Elders to do follow up research.
5. Approved designating the current balance in the G. Pilkington Memorial Music Fund to be spent on lighting for our renovated organ consoles music rack.
6. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting on March 31, 2019, for the purpose of Electing Elders and 2 Trustees. One for 2020 and one for the Class of 2022.
7. Approved setting June 2, 2019, as the date for installation and ordination of new officers.
8. Approved designating a half day on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve as paid holidays for office staff.
9. Approved adopting the following resolution as the cover letter from the Reconciliation Task Force report. "The Session of SOPC wholeheartedly accepts Jana as our pastor, as she has been chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ. We agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church. We urge all our fellow members to do likewise."
10. Approved dissolving the Reconciliation Task Force.
11. Approved the selling of purple bows and luminaries for \$10.00 each in the Narthex on April 7th and 14th to support the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.
12. Approved the Scouts using Fellowship Hall on March 30th.
13. Approved the ALANON Group using the Fellowship Classroom on July 13th.
14. Approved the use of podcasts by James Bryan Smith for use in the Roads and Anchors class.
15. Received the revised Policies and Procedures for the Prevention of child abuse as a first reading.

Jim Wilhide  
Clerk of Session

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**CHILI COOK OFF RESULTS:** Our *Overall Best Chili* winner was Jason Bundrick and the *Most Donations* were for Banks Robinson's pot. A total of \$538.00 was raised. Thank you for supporting our children and youth.

**SILENT AUCTION:** We are currently accepting donations to use at our Silent Auction for our Children and Youth. The funds will be used to defer the cost of Youth Conferences, Mission Trips and Camp Fellowship. Please donate before April 14th. You may bring your items to the church. We are also accepting donations of service such as babysitting, painting, etc. The auction will be on April 28th.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This year's VBS is *Athens, Paul's Dangerous Journey* to share the truth! It will take place June 24th - June 28th, if you would like to volunteer please let Michaela know! Remember the sooner you request a volunteer position the more likely you are to have a spot you would like! Training will be 4/28/19 following lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a second training 5/26/19 following the service in the session room. If you cannot attend one of these trainings, please tell Michaela.

**DAY MISSION TRIP:** This year children ages 9 - 11 will have the opportunity to take part in this year's mission trip to Charleston, SC. On Wed. Aug 7th. The children will spend the day working at Low Country Food Bank. Please let Michaela know ASAP if you or your child will be attending.

## MISSIONS



### Collections for March Our Sharing God's Love collection:

We will be collecting peanut butter and jelly. Thank you!

**Prison Ministry Collection:** Soft yarn, lotions, books and magazines as well as soft toilet tissue and clothes for their work release program.  
No shoes or purses please.

**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, March 12. 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.

**Soup Kitchen 2019 - Oliver Gospel Mission:** Thank you to everyone who helps make sandwiches for the men of Oliver Gospel Mission at Centennial ARP Church. The Soup Kitchen will be held each of the following Saturdays this coming year at 10 a.m. at Centennial ARP Church at 1413 Laurel Street: March 16, May 18, July 20, Sept. 21, Nov. 23, Jan. 25, 2020. Thanks to Greg Mixon for coordinating this ministry and to everyone who helps.

### Loving Our Neighbors: Missions Ministry News

- \* Hannah Circle provided a Tuesday night meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.
- \* Collected canned meats and other items for Sharing God's Love.
- \* Packed food backpacks for the children of Seven Oaks Elementary School.
- \* Souper Bowl of Caring- We collected \$1,100.26 and canned food items for Sharing God's Love.
- \* Missions donated \$420 to Seven Oaks Elementary School for 12 children (third and fourth graders) to play baseball at Seven Oaks Park this spring. The cost includes uniforms, coaches and a place to play for children who otherwise would not be able to participate in an organized sport.

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

### Family Promise Volunteers Needed

Volunteer opportunities are available at Family Promise of the Midlands. They are looking for volunteers to help answer phones, and receive and manage donated household items for the Home Again Program. Also volunteers are needed to help on Move in Day, cleaning, unpacking kitchen items and making up beds. To learn more or join the Family Promise of the Midlands Volunteer team, email or call [officemanager@familypromisemidlands.org](mailto:officemanager@familypromisemidlands.org) or (803)832-4765.



**Relay for Life.** Once again this year, the Missions Ministry of Seven Oaks will sponsor a team for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" campaign. This year, the relay will be held on Friday, May 3 at Crooked Creek Park starting at 6:00 p.m. To raise funds, we are selling purple bows and luminaries in the Narthex after worship on April 7 and 14 for \$10 each. The purple bows go on your mailbox to show your support for Relay, and the luminaries are inscribed with the person you want to honor or memorialize who has experienced cancer. The luminaries are lit in a moving ceremony at 10:00 p.m. on the night of Relay. Talk to Ed Keelen if you would like to be a team member or participate.



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

3 - Marion Wishart  
10 - Kitsie Miller  
17 - Mary Dempster  
24 - Sue Kesterson  
31 - Linda Floyd

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

3 - Tish Lowe  
10 - Mark Johnson  
17 - Pastor  
24 - Janice Holbrook  
31 - Julie Bussells