

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

Return Service Requested



The Leaf

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

May

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 12:15 Chair Yoga 5:30 Elder Training 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	2 1:30 SOPC Quilters	3 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	4 10:00 Overeaters
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:00 Lunch/Silent Auction 5:15 Boot Camp 6:00 Chin Worship	6 10:30 = NO Bible Study 4:00p Congregational Care, CE	7 5:30 Admin 6:00 PW Birthday Celebration	8 12:15 Chair Yoga 5:30 Elder Training 6:00 Chin Bible Study 7:00 NANA	9 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	10 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	11 10:00 Overeaters
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Worship	13 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	14 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presby. Comm 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & Yoga	15 12:15 Chair Yoga 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Nana	16	17 6:45 Lanterns 5:30 Elder Training 7:00 Chin Band	18 9:00 Richland 5 Elder Training 10:00 Overeaters
19 HUMOR SUNDAY 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Worship Service	20 10:30 Bible Study (last) 6:30 Session Meeting 7:00 NANA	21 1:00 Greater Columbia Quilters - FH & FC 7:00 Yoga & NANA	22 12:15 Chair Yoga 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	23	24 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band-Sanct	25 9:00 Women's Retreat 10:00 Overeaters
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Covenant Ringers CYP & VBS Training 5:15 Boot Camp - last one 6:00 Chin Worship	27 MEMORIAL DAY 7:00 NANA OFFICE CLOSED	28 9:00 Comfort Quilters 4:00 Children's Planning 7:00 Yoga & NANA	29 12:15 Chair Yoga 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	30	31 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.

ANY MEMBER YOU CHOOSE

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. Beth Morelock
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

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

Have you met Beth Edwards-Morelock, our new SOPC Office Manager? Her first day was **Tuesday**, April 23, and she is looking forward to getting to know our SOPC family.

Beth is originally from Saluda, married to John and lives in Lexington. They have three adult children, Whitney, Emilie and John III. Their daughters recently were married, so they now have two new sons, Devin and Tery. (and yes, Tery is spelled with only one R) They are empty nesters and love it! However, their nest seems to be pretty full with two dogs, Snuffy and Otis, and Tootsie, the cat. Beth is a Certified Master Gardener and loves being in her yard working with her flowers and vegetable garden on her days off. Beth comes to us with administrative experience in church (Faith Evangelical Lutheran), private (E-Transcripts) and government (Clemson Extension) sectors. We are grateful for her presence in the ministry of SOPC and look forward to experiencing the blessings her gifts will bring. Please pray for Beth as she begins her new journey. Stop by the church office. Welcome her. Be a blessing to her as she settles in to her new role. Her regular office hours will be 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.



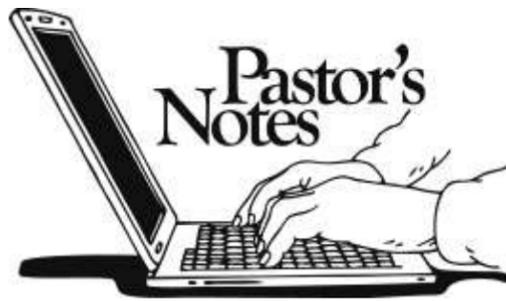
HUMOR SUNDAY: The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to us, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world. This year at SOPC, we will hold humor Sunday on May 19th in the Fellowship Hall.

Laughter Sunday (also known as *Holy Humor Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – **the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.**

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy. For us this year, we are experimenting with laughter Sunday on a festival day for the church, also casual Sunday. Since every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, the timing is always appropriate to laugh and rejoice in God's sanctuary!



From Soil to Soul
 When we moved into our new home there was very little in the yard that screamed 'beauty'. And I like to fancy myself a gardener though I would not say I actually have a green thumb. It was within the second week of our residence that mine and Rusty's hands and shovels plowed the ground and in went blooms and perennials, trees, annuals and vines. This was going to feel like home. This soil soothes my soul.

Exodus 15:16-17 You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

Maybe you don't fancy yourself a gardener, or maybe you do. It doesn't really matter because our God has always been in the business of planting and creating. God created Adam from adamah (Adam is a Hebrew wordplay on 'the ground'). The vine of Israel was taken out of Egypt and like a tree planted by still waters is bearing fruit (Psalm 1 and 80:11). God says a place will be appointed for my people, Israel. They will be planted and they may live in their own place (1 Chron 17:9). And so neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:7). And finally, Mark 4:26-29, and Jesus was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know." The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

Even here at Seven Oaks, creation is in your history as the church emerged from what seemed like ashes to 'Rise up and Build'. Truthfully in God's Kingdom, there is nothing more primal, more calling, even more unifying than this opportunity for planting and growing seeds for the future, gardener or not. When you look at the coming calendar of events in May and June, what ways will you plant a seed, help to water its growth, or tend the soil? From soil to soul, this is our call, to revel in God's plantings, seeds of the future, hopes and dreams for God's church.

Maybe you do not fancy yourself a gardener. Does it help to know that our God is? Somehow the two- soil and soul- are deeply enriched when we are participants together. God is the true gardener and in the words of writer Heather Woods, 'we are all called to get our hands dirty and co-create in wonder with the Divine.' AS you look at the church calendar for May and June, there are MANY places to take part in tilling the soil. The best part is that you don't even have to know how or what you are doing because God already does. What way will YOU take part of planting and growth this season? Jana

THANK YOU'S

The Craven family thanks everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and sympathy during their time of loss.
 Rev. Doug, Vicki & Michaela Craven

SOPC recently made a donation to PCSC in memory of my brother, Charles Key. I thank you for your kindness. My SOPC family has been so thoughtful during this time of loss and I am grateful.
 Sincerely, Tara Whitfield

Thank you so much for your gift to Presbyterian Communities in memory of my brother, Tommy. I wish the church could have known Tommy. He was a fine fellow and a wonderful Christian. My family and I deeply appreciate this donation to honor him.
 Jo Groce

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Flowering Cross—Easter



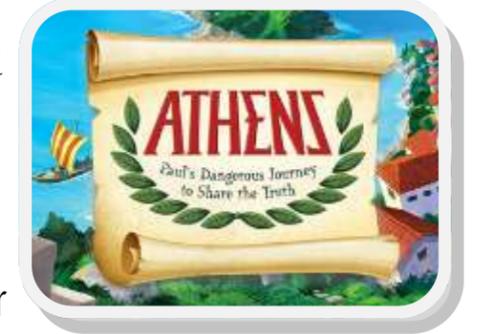
Confirmation

Confirmation will be meeting May 5th, May 19th, May 26th, and June 2nd. The confirmands will go before session on May 20th and will join the church June 9th.

BootCamp has two more meetings this Spring! Bootcamp will meet May 5th and May 28th for a wrap-up and mission project!

WE need you to be part of Athens! If you would like to volunteer for this years VBS June 24th –29th please let Michaela know ASAP. There will be a second CYP and VBS training on May 26th. if you cannot attend please let Michaela know so that a one-one session can be scheduled.

Please note, even if you do NOT plan to volunteer for VBS if you will be working with children in the next year you must attend the CYP PORTION OF THE TRAINING.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



HISTORICAL HOME'S TOUR

Calling all women of SOPC, for a day of history, fellowship & food. Pick up a brochure from the narthex. If you are interested in joining the tour, please let Judy Barnes know, 803.509.1353. Please give your check in the amount of \$45.00 payable to SOPW, to either Judy or Shelagh Wirth, no later than May 14.

We will tour two homes, have lunch, catered by Spotted Salamander and then complete the tour with two more homes.

Tour will be Saturday, May 25 @ 9:00 am. Meet in the back parking lot of church to carpool. Let Judy know if you want to carpool or will drive yourself.



Handicapped entrances are available, please let Judy know if arrangements need to be made.

	2 Margaret Royals	10 Jonathan Park	21 Zach Noe
	5 Sarah Park	13 Terry Clark	23 Marjorie Claytor
	6 Ken Watkins	14 Marsha Phillips	24 Lloyd Pilkington
	8 Kent Phillips	18 Nancy Taber	25 Sue Kesterson
	9 Linda Floyd	19 David Will	25 Roni Klemick
			30 Nancy Humphreys

SAFETY REPORT UPDATE

Session is still wading through the massive amounts of information provided by the Safety Committee. Each session meeting we are focusing on one particular portion of the safety of our congregation. We are thankful for your patience as session discerns the ways forward. At the beginning of month 3 in the safety report processing, session has implemented:

- Head Usher Instructions have been received for a first read. Ron Kesterson was contacted and will set a time for head usher training once instructions have been approved in their final format.
- Session has since established a committee to discern 'next steps' of what safety options would be the best for door safety and Wi-Fi around campus.
- Interior Design Committee ordered blinds for the children's buildings in accordance with the safety team recommendations.
- Received a written letter from Ken O'Mellan addressing the desire to carry weapons in the sanctuary.
- Heard a written letter from Kathy Keane expressing the need for further discernment on carrying weapons in the sanctuary.
- Session reviewed their previous statement which was printed in LEAF, bulletin and sanctuary stating SC Law that no concealed weapons may be carried in the sanctuary unless approved by church leadership.
- Session held much discussion and voted to refrain from approving any non-active and qualified law enforcement members of SOPC to carry weapons within the sanctuary.
- Approved upgrading of first aid kits in the Nursery, FH and Kitchen. The recommendation was made to transfer the AED from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall and returned when large events are held in the FH (and not in the sanctuary) until another AED is funded and supplied.
- Building and Grounds has a list of Fire Exit signs that need to be replaced as well as fire extinguishers and fire alarms to be supplied. They have been requested to contact the local fire department to inquire about installation and provision of these services.
- Plats of the property were received from Sam White and are being evaluated for specific classrooms and locations on campus. These are to be updated by Shelagh Wirth and Building and Grounds on formatting clear actions in the events of weather, intruder events and health emergencies requiring evacuation and hunker down procedures. Once evaluated, they will then go to our interior design committee for suitable framing in each classroom/location on campus.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

From the Administration Ministry:

Keeping your pledge up to date helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church. Last month's offering and the year-to-date information are shown below:

	RECEIPTS	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE
MARCH	\$41,457	\$39,947	\$1,510
YTD	\$103,952	\$103,861	\$91

In addition, total expenses through the end of March exceeded total revenue by \$1,139, as outlined in the chart below.

Total Revenue through March	109,961
Total Expenses through March	<u>110,100</u>
Expenses in Excess of Revenue	(1,139)

NEWS FROM YOUR SESSION

At its last Stated Meeting on April 8, 2019, your Session...

1. Heard a presentation about endowments by Stefanie Marsden of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The Session approved opening an account with TPF investing a non-active \$57,567 CD into this new account.
2. Learned from the pastor that we will receive new members on Easter Sunday.
3. Learned that Gavin Lombardi has transferred his membership to Anaconda, Montana.
4. Approved offering communion on Easter Sunday.
5. Approved changing the date for Elder Installation from June 1 to June 9.
6. Approved establishing a Task Force of Fred Holbrook, Linda Floyd and Jim Taylor to study appropriate Session size.
7. Received the first reading of updated Head Usher Instructions, including safety team recommendations. Approved head ushers to be trained to lock the sanctuary doors at the beginning of worship, to patrol the SOPC campus during worship, locking all other doors, to remain in the narthex during worship as well as the use of walkie-talkies to maintain communication during the worship service, in compliance with the first draft of head usher instructions.
8. Received and approved the communion schedule for 2019, with updates.
9. Elected with thanks, Kathy Keane to serve as Elder Commissioner for the May 4 meeting of Trinity Presbytery at Trinity Presbyterian Church.
10. Approved the hiring of a new Office Manager, Elizabeth Morelock, to begin April 23.
11. Signed cards and prayed for members with special joys or illnesses.
12. Approved updating first aid kits in various locations on our campus.
13. Approved September 8 as Rally Day.
14. Approved establishing a committee of Fred Holbrook, Jack Noe, Shelagh Wirth, and Dave Odell to determine our property wide internet needs and safety issues.
15. Approved Irmo Lock to cost effectively repair door locks around campus to working condition.
- 16.
17. Approved the motion 'In concurrence with Sergeant Barrett, the SOPC Session will allow only current and qualified law enforcement personnel to carry concealed weapons on SOPC property.'
18. Approved Pastor Jana to give the safety team an update on Session adaptation of recommendations.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

If you have any questions, Session minutes are in the office for your to read.

LOST & FOUND

If you have lost glasses, coffee cups or jewelry in the past year, please come to the church office and look through the Lost/Found drawer. This drawer will be emptied on Thursday, May 9 & items left in it will be tossed. Thank you!!!



Clean up day



Egg Hunting



Easter

LIFE
IN
THE
CHURCH

MISSIONS

Collections for May

Our Sharing God's Love collection: We will be collecting all kinds of canned vegetables and canned fruits. 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, May 14. 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 helped 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: 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:

* The Millers and friends provided a Tuesday night meal to the men of Providence Men's Home.

* Collected beans and other items for Sharing God's Love.

* Packed food backpacks for the children of Seven Oaks Elementary School.

* Provided a home and meals at the church for one family through Family Promise of the Midlands.

Other donations last month: Women's Shelter \$500, SC Coalition against Domestic Violence \$500, Trinity Presbytery \$1952.

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

Habitat for Humanity Work Week

Our summer work week with Habitat will be here soon. We'll have lodging on the campus of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC from Sunday June 16 to Friday June 21. Come stay all week or a few days, whatever fits your schedule. Contact John Whitfield for details.

Family Promise Week

Thank you to everyone who helped with Family Promise last month. Volunteers hosted an evening or overnight, set up rooms and beds, broke down after guests left and made meals. Thank you for all your hard work and your prayers for our families!

Mother's Day Offering

We will collect the Mother's Day Offering on Sunday, May 12. This special offering supports older adults at Presbyterian Communities who have outlived their savings. Presbyterian Communities of SC has had a long standing commitment to care for residents who can no longer pay for such services. All funds collected via the Mother's Day Offering are set aside strictly for this purpose. Thank you for your contributions.



The Mission Committee is planning a second exploratory visit to Cuba in October to seek out a possible partnership with a Cuban Presbyterian church. The goal of this one-week-long mission trip will be to bring back a recommendation for the session to consider. If you believe you may have an interest in going to Cuba on this mission trip, or would like to have further information about PC(USA) partnerships in Cuba, please contact Ben Smith and let him know. There will be an information meeting on June 2, 2019 for all who have expressed an interest in this potential mission opportunity to finalize which week in October we intend to travel. You can reach Ben by phone at: (224) 637-0298; or via e-mail at: benmason32@gmail.com