



The Monthly Newsletter from Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church



Here at SOPC there are several ways we can celebrate this season together, some traditional and some new. Come and be a part of the light of Christ in this place, expecting new things to develop in our midst.

First, Daily Advent Devotionals are available, 'Reflections of the Past', a compilation of our historical devotions over the years to bring back Christmas Joy from our friends and fellow family. Grab one now and read each day to get a flavor of the faith of our friends here at SOPC.

Second, Hanging of the Greens on December 3rd was the second annual worship service to learn why we decorate and utilize the greens in our midst at Christmas time. We shined the light on the reason for Advent waiting for Christ.

Third, the annual Prime Rib Christmas Dinner is coming, and we want YOU there! Sunday night, December 17th, we will have a meal that is a true Christmas feast, entertainment to ring in the Christmas Spirit and an opportunity to bring your family and friends to a celebration of Christmas Joy. You will need to purchase tickets in advance. Whatever you do, do not let transportation stop you- we will find a way to get you here for this annual tradition.

Fourth, Christmas Eve for many is the epitome of anticipation, the Christ child is coming into the world. With a new musical director, beautifully performed selections, and the beauty of the stars in the sky, this service is one of magic. If you worship from Home, please prepare a candle and communion to partake during this candlelight communion service. Come and welcome the babe into our world as we pray for God's peace and presence in our midst.

Fifth, Christmas Day you are invited to enjoy your families, friends, and traditions from the comfort of home. If you find yourself in need of a friend on this day, let the office know in advance so that you may find a place to share in a meal and celebrate with those who love you. The office will be closed the day after Christmas but should you need any lifting of the Spirits, the pastor's on call cell number is available *803-530-4866.

Sixth, Star Words are coming on January 7th! Some folks find this particular worship service enlightening for the year ahead as we get a glimpse of what our lives might reflect, through the simplicity of an anonymously chosen word from the Lord's Table. I would love to hear your reflections on what your star word has come to mean this year of 2023. Mine, for instance, was 'hospitality'. Not only did my life include new groups, new opportunities to host in my home but now a new family and new home to make new connections of hospitality with new neighbors and friends. What ways did your star word come to life this year? Write into the office via email or verbally share your story of the star word so that we can see how God has been at work in all our lives!

I am excited to share yet another Christmas season of anticipation and joy as we prepare for the Christ Child. Let us gather at the manger, friends, and love one another as God has surely loved us.

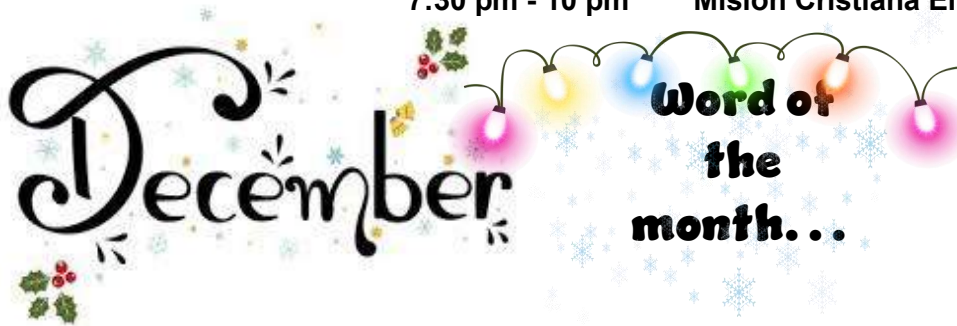
Christmas Blessings,

Pastor Jana



DECEMBER DATES AT A GLANCE

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults, Youth, & Children
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am - 3 pm	Liberty Church
	1:30 pm - 4 pm	Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional
	3:30 pm - 5 pm	Love Revolution
	5:30 pm- 7 pm	Youth Group
Monday	8 am - 1 pm	Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
	7:30 pm	NANA
	8:00 pm	Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional
	7:00 pm	Troop 91 Meeting
Tuesday	8 am - 1 pm	Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
	7:30 pm	NANA
Wednesday	8 am - 1 pm	Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
	5:45 pm	NAMI in Pavilion
	7:30 pm	NANA
Thursday	8 am - 1 pm	Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
	7 pm - 10 pm	Liberty Church
Friday	6:45 am	Lanterns Men's Prayer Group
	8 am - 1 pm	Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
	7:30 pm - 10 pm	Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional



Word of the month emails go out each Wednesday with a different explanation for the month's word. If you would like to discuss the explanation, please contact Ed Keelen or Pastor Jana.

Sunday events: Worship 11:00 am
Worship Link: [https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRlaE41dz09)
[pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRlaE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWlHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRlaE41dz09)
Meeting ID: 743 754 044

9:45 am - Adult Sunday School
Roads to Faith Sunday School Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/508111743>
Meeting ID: 508 111 743
9:45 am - Children and Youth Sunday School Classes
All are welcome!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Counters

12/3 Kathy Keane, Ron Kesterson
12/10 Guy San Fratello & Judy Barnes
12/17 Banks & Polly Robinson
12/24 Frank Sheppard, Mark Wishart
12/31 Elizabeth & Jim Taylor

Ushers

12/3 Mary Johnson
12/10 Ron Kesterson
12/17 Guy San Fratello
12/24 Fred Holbrook
12/31 Shelagh Wirth

Greeters

12/3 Robert & Kitsie Miller
12/10 Janice Reiser, Jeanne LeBoeuf
12/17 Carol Griffith, Stephanie Sampson
12/24 Ben & Dallene Smith
12/31 Shelagh Wirth, Kitsie Miller

Acolyte

12/10 Usher
12/17 Eli Bundrick
12/24 Ellis Robinson
12/31 Usher

Time With Children

12/10 Judy Barnes
12/17 Bruce Hurley
12/24 Melanie Mixon
12/31 Janice Holbrook

Children's Corner

12/10 Marion Wishart
12/17 Kathy Keane
12/31 Melanie Logan

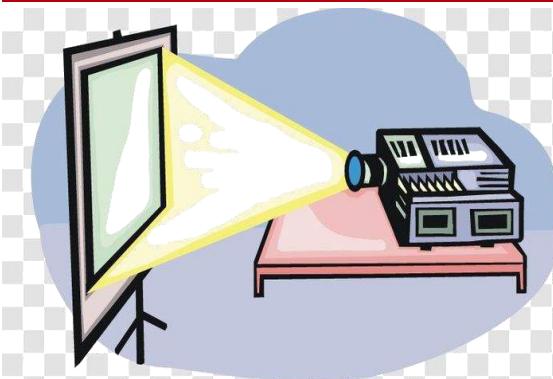


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MR AND MRS!

Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Jana Bundrick! Our best wishes and congratulations to the happy couple and the new blended family!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW SLIDESHOW EVERY SUNDAY



On Sunday, December 3 we launched our projection system for the first time. Here is a little information about how it will work. It is controlled by a laptop using a PowerPoint presentation which is prepared in advance and controlled by Pastor Jana. There are two hardwired Epson projectors that display a simultaneous image on the front sanctuary walls, and one 75" HDTV mounted on the balcony wall for viewing by the choir. The system is courtesy of an anonymous SOPC donor. The team that designed and installed it are John Carter, Ed Keelen, Lloyd Pilkington, Dustin Tanner (Consultant), Karl

Thompson, Sharon Watkins, and other tech team members, it would likely have cost three times what we paid for it. Please give them your thanks!

Ed Keelen

Happy Birthday to the December born!



Jeffrey Brannon	12	2
Hal Bowman	12	2
Jim Mullins	12	2
Heather Noë	12	4
Willie Hale	12	6
Thomas Shuler	12	7
Bubba Locklair	12	8
Janice Reiser	12	11
Melanie Logan	12	11
Lauren Givens	12	12
Frank Sheppard	12	18
Karin Salter	12	22
Jim Taylor, Jr.	12	27
Jeanne LeBoeuf	12	27
Emalee Dillard	12	28
Kathy Morganelli	12	28

A Gift from You Will Always Make a Difference!



Leave your legacy of love today.

A gift to your church allows you to enhance its mission and change the lives of others. TPF can help you plan your gift that will impact generations to come and capitalize on available tax savings.

For more information contact us at 800.955.3155
or visit us online at www.tpf.org.

MISSIONS

Cuba Mission Trip

Our Cuba Mission trip is leaving on **December 8th-15th**, and we need your prayers to bring joy and hope to our sister and brothers in Cuba.

First and foremost, we need your prayers! We believe that through your prayers, together, we can make a positive impact on others lives. Your ongoing support and encouragement mean the world to us!

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Let's spread love and joy, and make this Christmas a memorable one.

We, also, want to thank all of those who are making the trip to Cuba to distribute the items we have collected and the feminine hygiene items that many worked on diligently these last few months. Your dedication, hard work, and donations of your time and money is going to be so appreciated! And we are very proud of our members who are making this trip to Cuba ~ Robert and Kitsie Miller, Kathy Keane, and Dan Perriero! God bless each and every one of you!

Cuba
Mission



Things needed...

Prayers

Monetary Donations

December 8-15th

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTURE AND THANK YOU

From Administration and Pastor Jana:

It is with deep sorrow that we accept the resignation of our Office Manager, Carol Denise Wolfe. Her last day with us will be December 27th, 2023. Denise has been a blessing to our staff, effective in time management and oversight, instrumental in organization and creating new pathways within the office space and we are sad to see her go. Please reach out to say your farewells and showering of love through December. Denise, you will be missed!!



I would like to thank all of you who have made me feel welcomed and helped me when I needed you! I will miss you. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you as your Office Manager and I wish much love and happiness to you all and Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Denise Wolfe

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACILITY RENTERS!

You Are the Light of the World

Matthew 5:13-20

Did you know that SOPC has become a beacon of Christ's love in unexpected ways? Our facilities, a blessing from God, are being utilized right now by Four Different Churches!

SOPC utilizes our facility well, Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l. Church utilizes the Sanctuary and children's facilities every Sunday, Monday, and Friday including one Saturday a month. The Well is a new church who is worshipping upstairs in Building B on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and we welcome back The Liberty Church on Sunday and Thursday nights for worship and study! What a blessing to be a part of God's work here on St. Andrews. Welcome our neighbors and friends in Christ when you see them!

Pastor Jana

SESSION

The Session met on November 20, 2023. The following motions were passed.

1. Approved collecting money for Providence Home gift cards.
2. Approved collecting money for our sister church in Cuba.
3. Approved changes to the first reading of the Church Property Policy.
4. Approved moving Session Meeting to Jan. 22, 2024.
5. Approved renting to Liberty Church.
6. Approved renewing our rental agreement with Mision Cristiana Elim International.
7. Approved Trinity Presbytery to use Fellowship Hall on Sat. April 20, 2024.

Important information: The Prime Rib Dinner will be on Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 PM. Reservations are due by Dec. 10th. The cost is \$15 per person and \$10 for those 12 or under.



★ YOUTH EVENTS

DECEMBER 10

- MISSION PROJECT AT SOPC CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR SHUT-INS
BRING \$5 TO SUPPORT THIS MISSION
- ★ STUDY ON THE INCARNATION (GOD BECOMING HUMAN)

DECEMBER 13, WEDNESDAY NIGHT

- SALUDA SHOALS EVENING!
- MEET AT 5PM AT SOPC
- DRESS ACCORDING TO WEATHER
- NO ADMISSION FEE, WESTMINSTER IS PAYING FOR THE VAN AND ENTRY INTO THE PARK (THANK YOU WESTMINSTER)!
- BRING \$20-30 FOR 'EXTRAS' LIKE SLIDES, FOOD, DRINK, ETC.

DECEMBER 17

- PRIME RIB DINNER AT SOPC, \$15 A PIECE
- COME ENJOY THE SEASON WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

DECEMBER 24 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

- WORSHIP AT 11:00 AM
- EVENING SERVICE AT 5:30 PM
- NO YOUTH THIS WEEKEND OR DECEMBER 31



YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
PARTY



ADVENT ADVENTURE—WHERE WE FOUND OUT WHAT THE ANGELS SAID!

Advent Adventure
Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210
803-772-1761

And the Angels Said...
to Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth,
Shepherds...

DECEMBER 2 FROM 12-3 PM

Ages 4 years old - 5th grade
(No nursery provided)

Register by clicking on the QR Code or go to our website
www.sopc.net

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

**Deadline November 27th
WE WANT TO BE READY FOR YOU!**

What did the angels say?
Come and find out!

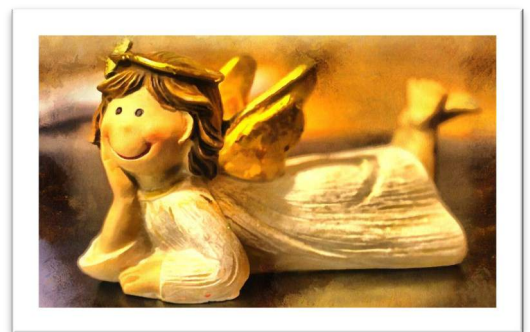
CRAFTS
MUSIC
INTERACTIVE SKIT
GAMES



Many thanks to all those who helped with Advent Adventure on Saturday, December 2. We had a great time learning about the angels through story, music, games, and crafts. (The angels told us that Jesus would be born!!) If you helped in any way, please know that you are appreciated!!



ADVENT ADVENTURE—WHAT DID THE ANGELS SAY?



ADVENT ADVENTURE—THAT JESUS WAS GOING TO BE BORN! HALLELUJAH!



ADMINISTRATION

From the Administration Ministry: Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date, as this helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church! October and November's offerings and the year-to-date information are shown below:

	Giving	Budgeted	Difference
October	\$ 22,882	\$ 23,500	(\$ 618)
YTD 2023	\$224,249	\$235,000	(\$ 10,751)

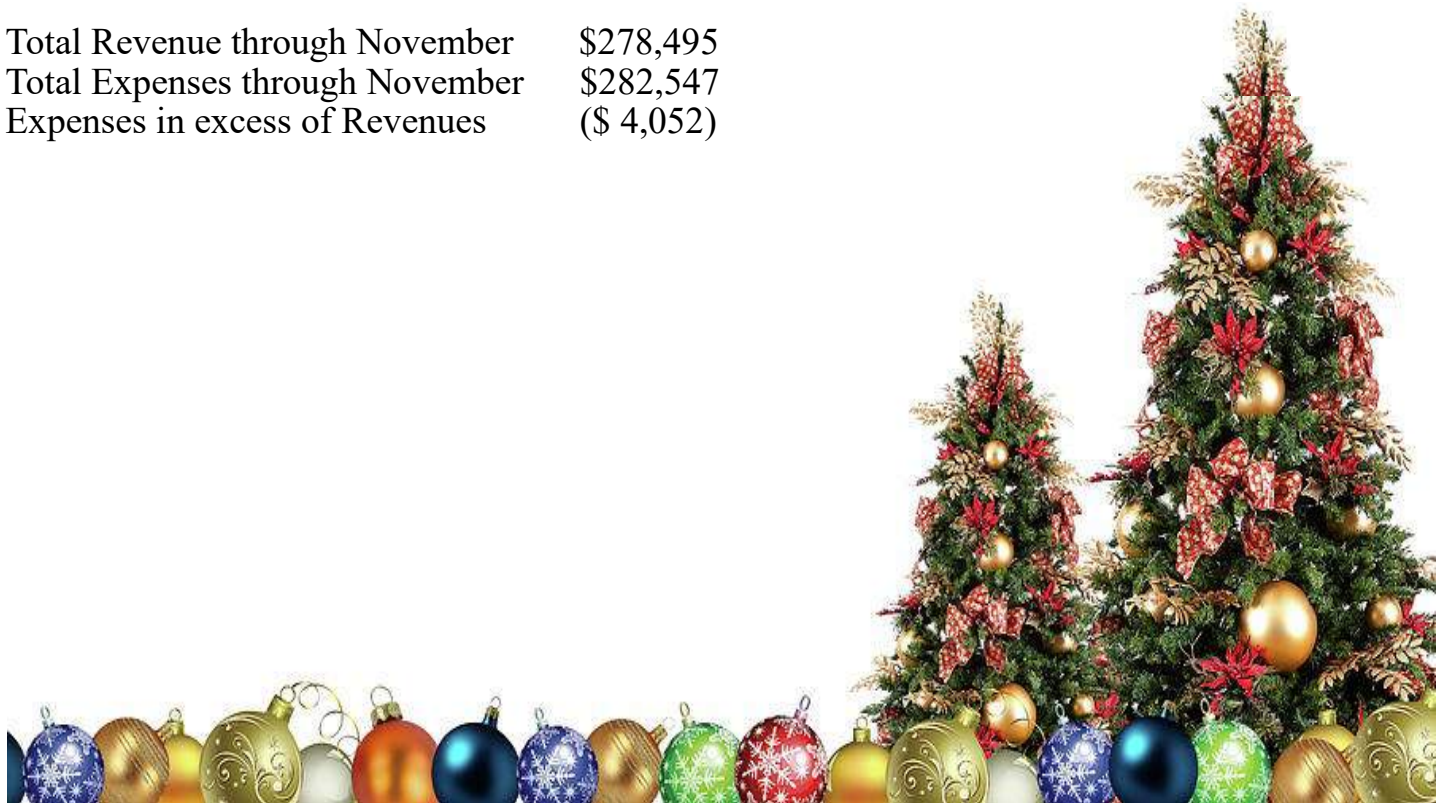
Total revenue for the first 10 months of 2023 (including other income, such as rent, in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through October	\$246,593
Total Expenses through October	\$257,262
Expenses in excess of Revenues	(\$ 10,669)

	Giving	Budgeted	Difference
November	\$ 27,425	\$ 23,500	\$ 3,925
YTD 2023	\$251,675	\$258,500	(\$ 6,825)

Total revenue for the first 11 months of 2023 (including other income, such as rent, in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through November	\$278,495
Total Expenses through November	\$282,547
Expenses in excess of Revenues	(\$ 4,052)



THANK YOU FROM THORNWELL!

Dear Sisters in Christ, you are laying firm foundations for lives to be changed!

You make it possible for children and families to find hope and healing because they are standing on a foundation of support and love. Throughout the calendar you'll find ways to pray for the children and families we serve – we are so grateful for the ways you reflect God's love! Thank you!



Your giving transformed into blessings time after time for more than **2,400 children and families** in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Recently, YOU enhanced our ministry through the support of family-like residential care, foster care, community-based care, and education. Because of you:

- **147 children and teens have safe and loving homes** (*Cottage Life, Foster Care, and Transitional Living for Young Adults*).
- **1,872 children and families receive therapy, stability, and supportive services from our staff of experts** (*Building Families, Foster Care, and Strengthening Families*).
- **342 children are school-ready and on track for graduation** (*Child Development Center and the Learning Center—Read Right and Tutoring*).

Sisters in Christ, your love, grace and generosity help build tomorrow's families upon lasting foundations of hope and joy! Children and families in the shadows of challenging times step into the light and love of Jesus through your support. This year, YOU made sure we could keep saying 'YES' to all who needed us.

Let this 2024 calendar be a reminder that YOU help ignite empowered communities. Because of YOU, we're steps closer to a world in which all children belong to a thriving family.

Thank you for lighting the way so children and families in need can experience life and love in abundance. We can't do it without you!

For All God's Children,

Myron Wilkins
President

mwilkins@thornwell.org

THANK YOU for being the kind of person who cares and gives to help our most vulnerable children and families. We simply could not support children in need without you.

YOU ARE INVITED!

We invite you to bake for the
Irmo High School
HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK

Donate your best cookies, brownies, cupcakes, or special treats to share with the faculty and staff.

12 December

Scan the QR code to sign up!

For more information email
IHSevents@lexrich5.org
476-3000



~ Save the Date ~
Sponsor Appreciation Day
Tuesday, February 13, 2024



Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews
2600 Ashland Road ~ Columbia, SC 29210

COMMUNITY MISSION A SUCCESS!

White Knoll Collected 1,377 individual items of personal use such as soap, feminine products, toothbrushes and shampoo for use in the Clothing Closet and Love Revolution here at SOPC.

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church partnered with White Knoll Middle School in our most recent mission initiative for these cold seasons ahead.

These middle schoolers really showed up for our community here at SOPC.

Let us give thanks for the class of John Paul Sellars, whose family are members here at SOPC, for the work and ministry he is helping to instill in the students he teaches!



EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP!



Merry Christmas! Please join us for our annual Prime Rib Dinner on **December 17 at 6 pm.**

Adults—\$15
Children 12 and under—\$10

Community Updates

The Love Revolution

Every Sunday from 3:30 - 5:00 pm The Love Revolution is proving to be a blessing to our community. Food, love and hope are being provided weekly to those in need around us. This event is open to everyone.

Bring a dish and/or a smile to share God's love.

Community partners in this effort are:

Ashland United Methodist Church - First Sunday of the month
Palmetto Thrift with financial aid
KJ's Market supports us with food and paper supplies



Help Us Bless Our Community! Donations for the clothing closet are always welcome! Drop off clothing items in the black baskets in the narthex/lobby or bring by the church office during office hours.

The Clothes Closet is in need of wire hangars, pant hangars and children's small plastic hangars (with indentions to hold tank tops). We are, also, in great need of combs, disposable razors, brushes, travel size mini toiletries, deodorant, and any hygiene items would be greatly appreciated.

SOPC Blessing Box

Non-perishable food donations for the Blessing Box can be placed inside the box at any time. If you place items, please be sure they are securely wrapped as ants get into the food. If the box is full, please bring your items to the office. SOPC thanks KJ's Grocery Store for donations they provide for our Blessing Box.

There is an increase in needs such as crackers, breakfast bars, and snacks.



Contact information for
Pastor Jana Light Creighton:
803 530 4866
Email: jana@sopc.net

For church business call:
803-772-1761
or email: sopc@sopc.net

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
10 am - 4 pm

If you use the church facilities for any reason please remember to turn off lights, turn the air off, make sure no water is running (toilets or sinks) and lock the doors. Please also let Karl know when you leave by calling or texting 803-237-4519 so we can keep the facilities clean and sanitized. Thank you!



If you have information to be included in the weekly bulletin or newsletter, please have your information to the church office (sopc@sopc.net) no later than 10:00 am WEDNESDAY the week of publication. Thank you!

Ways to Give to Seven Oaks

To give via text:

Step 1

Enter 732-56
After to

Step 2

Type Sevenoaks as
your message and hit
send

Step 3

Enter 732-56

To Give via mail:

530 St. Andrews Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210

To give via our website:

Step 1

go to sopc.net

Step 2

Click on "Give" at the top
right. A window will open that
will guide you through the
process.