

# *The Leaf* Newsletter of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

 December 2024 

Jim's Corner:

The old saying is true, especially as we get older; “Boy, does time fly?!” We are approaching the end of another year as we enter into Advent and the preparations for Christmas. The last seven months that I have been with you have been rewarding to me. I have received your warm welcome and friendliness. No one has thrown tomatoes at me while I have preached...yet! I feel that I have become friends with most of you.

I admit, I have taken these months to learn as much as I could about you and Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church. What I have learned is that you are an active membership; your participation in so many missions and services to each other and to this community are strong and are to be admired. I have learned that Seven Oaks PC is not the church that it once was, but I also realize that is true for many other churches around us as well. Time has a way of changing things. It is our responsibility to embrace who we are and what we are at this point in time. As the old saying says, “We are who we are.” So, let's embrace that with optimism and hope for the future.

We are just completing our Stewardship season, and the final numbers are not in since we are still waiting on some pledges to come in. Once we have a final accounting of the pledges, this will tell us how to plan for 2025. We, as always, are hopeful that God will bless the ministry of SOPC in the coming year.

Soon after the beginning of 2025, the session will begin discussions about plans for the future with respect to preparing for a new pastor. Along the way, I expect the session will include the congregation in some of these conversations as well.

At this point in time, let us be thankful for what the Lord has provided and for the things to come. Let us remain faithful to God and let us continue to delve into His Word for His Spiritual guidance.

I pray this Advent season that we all will be lifted spiritually and strengthened in our faith.

Peace and Blessings!

Pastor Jim



### December Birthdays:

2: Jeffrey Brannon

4: Heather Noë

6: Abby Dempster & Willie Hale

7: Tom Shuler

8: Bubba Locklair & Peyton Moore

9: Barry Shatzer

11: Melanie Mason & Janice Reiser

18: Frank Sheppard

22: Karin Salter

**25: Jesus**

27: Jeanne LeBoeuf & Jim Taylor

28: Walker Bryan, Emalee Dillard, & Kathy Morganelli



## Music of Advent & Christmas:

Each Sunday during our Advent and Christmas worship services, we will lift our voices in praise using the great songs and carols of the season, and enjoy very special choral, instrumental, keyboard, and handbell music. Along with our weekly worship, there are three special opportunities we hope you will join us for:

1. **Weekly Carol Reflections** – Each week of Advent we will share a video story and musical meditation about the history and meaning of a Christmas carol specifically chosen for that week. Links to these music videos will be sent through a weekly email.
2. **Sunday, Dec. 8, 11:00 am** - Our Christmas music worship service will feature a musical walk-through of Advent and Christmas using beautiful choral anthems, instrumental music, Scripture reading, and carol singing.
3. **Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5:00-5:30 pm** – There will be a Christmas musical prelude of joyous seasonal music prior to our Christmas Eve worship service. Featured will be the music and reading of *One Solitary Life* with Jim Wilhide. Then, our 5:30 pm service will include lessons and carols to enrich our celebration of Christ's birth on this holy night.



### **Providence Home Christmas Giving:**

Please look for the Providence Home table in the narthex on December 1, 8, and 15. Our SOPC family will provide Christmas gifts for the men at Providence Home again this year. Our goal is to provide 60 men with a \$25 gift card each. These men are striving to improve their lives as they renew their faith. Some are trusting Jesus for the first time as new Christians. Let's show them we care! Our gifts will be delivered on December 16 in time for Christmas. Please give prayerful consideration to helping with this Christmas mission. Thank you.



Our annual Churchwide **Prime Rib Fellowship Supper** will be on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. This is always a treat!

**Cost = \$15 /person 12 years old and over.**

**(Donations accepted for children under 12.)**

**Please make reservations and payment by December 12<sup>th</sup>.**





JOIN US FOR SOPC'S

*Christmas  
Party*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH  
AT 6:00PM

851 LOST CREEK DR.  
COLUMBIA, SC 29212

HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES

OPTIONAL WHITE ELEPHANT  
GIFT EXCHANGE: \$10 LIMIT; NO  
GIFT CARDS; MAY BE  
SENTIMENTAL OR SILLY!

RSVP TO LIZ HARRIS BY 12/17TH:  
843-296-7838 OR  
LIZZI.SC@GMAIL.COM





Please join SOPC for our  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE.**

WE WOULD LOVE FOR OUR CAMPUS NEIGHBORS,  
TO PARTICIPATE WITH US!

**DECEMBER 24, 2024**

SPECIAL MUSIC BEGINS AT 5 PM;  
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 5:30.

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,  
530 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210;  
803-772-1761; [www.sopc.net](http://www.sopc.net)



## Adult Sunday School Classes:

- Both classes will continue to meet together for the immediate future.
- Pastor Jim will be teaching a series of Advent lessons.
- Both classes' joint Christmas Dinner will be on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, at Carol Griffith's Home, 6420 Nursery Road, Columbia, SC 29212.



**Rachel Circle: Christmas Luncheon: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 pm, Miyo's on Columbiana Dr.**

**Hannah Circle: Christmas Cookie Party for the SOPC residents of Presbyterian Communities on December 12<sup>th</sup>, with dinner following at Miyos.**

**Presbyterian Women have awarded a woman of SOPC with the **Honorary Life Award** each year. It is time to put your thinking caps on and nominate a beloved member of Presbyterian Women for this award. Who do you know who fits the bill? ...a dedicated Christian, a loyal member of SOPW, a member of the PC(USA), someone who works with the church to make the world a better place. Please send your nomination and bio to Shelagh Wirth either via email or snail mail. Her contact information:**

803-629-7851; [swirth1949@gmail.com](mailto:swirth1949@gmail.com); 110 Robin Forest Dr., West Columbia, SC 29170

## 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! Last month's offering and the year-to-date information are shown below:

	Giving	Budgeted	Difference
October	\$14,559	\$20,000	(\$5,441)
YTD 2024	\$184,072	\$200,000	(\$15,928)

**Total revenue for the first 10 months of 2024 (including other income such as rent) and total expenses are shown below.**

Total Revenue through October	\$237,766
- Total Expenses through October	<u>\$231,754</u>
= Revenues in excess of Expenses	\$6,012



**What makes SOPC special?! If you are willing to share a few sentences about what makes SOPC special to you, personally, **for our church website**, please contact Mark Dillard. Personal stories make all the difference when inviting new friends to journey with us!**



On 11/26/24, SOPC family and friends gathered to DECK THE HALLS, (and balcony, and narthex, and chancel, and sanctuary, etc.), of the church. Here are some pictures of the fun:



# In a Nutshell ... *thank you!*

LIVE OAK COUNSELING CENTER • Giving • November 2024

## Individual Givers

### Anonymous Givers

Mr. and Mrs. David Beitz  
Rev. and Mrs. Edward Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Bonds  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brackett  
Rev. and Mrs. Bob Brearley  
Dr. Stacey Brennan  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown  
Ms. Janet Brugh  
Mr. Wayne Bryan and Ms. Mimi Parrott  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cannon  
Mr. W. T. Cassels  
Central Carolina Community Foundation  
The Cheerful Giver  
Dr. and Mrs. James Christian  
Ms. Carolyn Click  
Ms. Karen Coker  
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Cornwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Covington  
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Curtis  
Dr. and Mrs. Sarkis Derderian  
Ms. Barbara Gatlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gorman  
Mr. and Mrs. William Halligan

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hall  
Ms. Jeanie Harvin  
Ms. Susannah Hiers  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill  
Mrs. Cheryl Holland  
Mrs. Sigrid Hyman  
Ms. Elizabeth Langley  
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Long  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lott  
Mrs. Jane Massey  
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Massey  
Mr. and Mrs. John McArthur  
Mr. and Mrs. John McCants  
Ms. Linda McDonald  
Dr. and Mrs. David Meadow  
Rev. and Mr. Richard Newsome  
Ms. Kim O'Quinn  
Mr. David Parr  
PD3 Foundation  
Rev. Ruth Roberts  
Ms. Kay Roman  
Mrs. Patricia Sargent  
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Brad Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. William Smythe

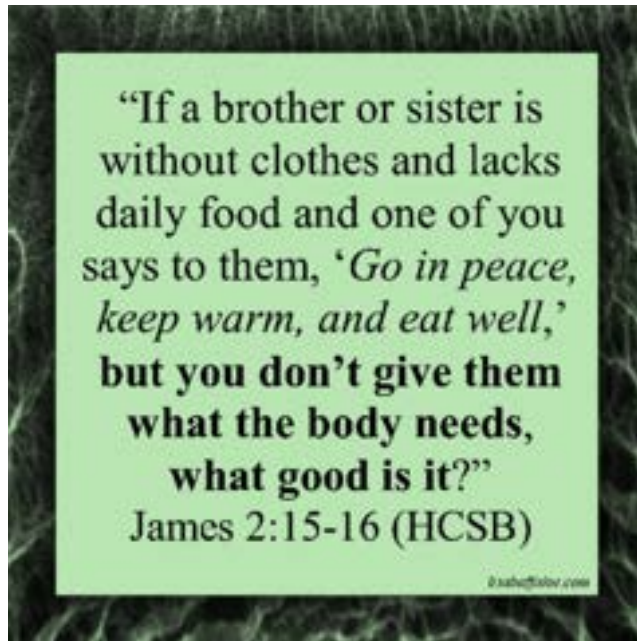
SPC Presbyterian Women - Circle #3  
SPC Presbyterian Women - Circle #5  
Mrs. Sarah St. Onge  
Ms. Kerry Stubbs  
Shandon United Methodist Women  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Swinson  
Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Trippe  
Mrs. Jamie Vickrey  
The Doctors Voss  
The Doctors Walsh  
Ms. Marion Watson  
Dr. and Mrs. Grant Willard  
Dr. Katherine Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Yelverton

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
Forest Lake Presbyterian Church  
Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church  
Shandon Presbyterian Church  
Spring Valley Presbyterian Church

600 King Street | Columbia, SC 29205 | 803.256.1033 | [www.liveoakcounselingcenter.org](http://www.liveoakcounselingcenter.org)



The excerpt above was printed in Live Oak Counseling's most recent newsletter.

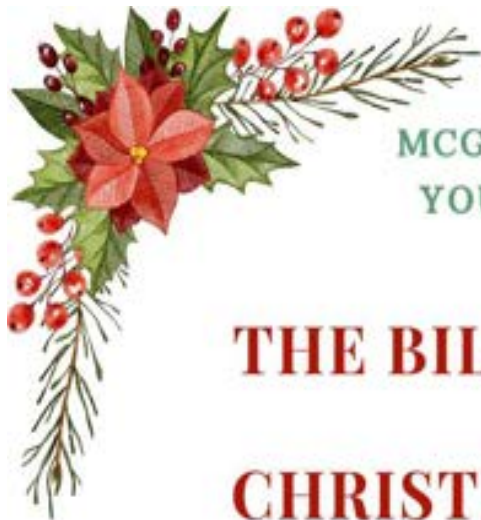


## Suggested Items for our SOPC Blessing Box:

- Pop-tarts
  - Canned goods with pop tops
  - Beef jerky individually wrapped
    - Peanut butter (small jars)
  - Individual packs of crackers &/or cookies
    - Travel-size toiletries, unopened
  - Feminine hygiene products, unopened, individually wrapped
    - NEW packs of socks and underwear (all sizes)
    - Microwave popcorn
  - Mylar emergency blankets available on Amazon; hand warmers
  - Nutri-grain bars, Granola bars without lots of chocolate, protein bars
    - Chef Boyardee
  - Non-perishable, individually wrapped “snack packs” like goldfish, nuts, chips, pretzels, dried fruit, trail mix, or roll-ups
    - SMALL packs of disposable diapers/wipes
    - Individually wrapped, single rolls of bathroom tissue
      - Pocket packs of Kleenex
      - Ramen noodles
      - Microwave cups of mac-n-cheese
    - Canned (or pouches) tuna, albacore, chicken, or Vienna sausages
      - bottled water
    - Nothing that melts in the summer heat, please.

Please bring by the church office or the baskets in the Narthex.





MCGREGOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITES  
YOU TO JOIN US ON A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS  
EXCURSION....

**THE BILLY GRAHAM LIBRARY  
&  
CHRISTMAS TOWN IN NORTH  
CAROLINA BUS TOUR**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**



- 10:30 A.M. DEPART FROM MCGREGOR PARKING LOT
- TOUR OF BILLY GRAHAM LIBRARY
- DINNER AT HILLBILLY'S BARBEQUE (DUTCH TREAT)
- TOUR OF MCADENVILLE, NC'S CHRISTMAS TOWN
- 8:30 P.M. ARRIVE BACK AT MCGREGOR

**COST: \$52.00 PER PERSON**

(CAN BE PAID IN FULL OR IN TWO PAYMENTS OF \$30 TO  
HOLD YOUR SPOT AND REMAINING \$22 BY NOV. 24)

**NOTE: PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 50  
REGISTRANTS, SO YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESERVE  
YOUR SEAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, SEND AN EMAIL TO:  
**MCGPRESADM@GMAIL.COM.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND TEL/CELL #.**

RESERVATIONS WILL BE ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.  
CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO ZOBEL TRAVEL, LLC AND GIVEN  
TO SUSAN MADDEN OR DROPPED BY THE CHURCH OFFICE.

