

SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

- **Pastor Jim's Acorn Devotion for the Week: *Behold His Mercy!***

*Be kind and loving in each other, and forgive each other
Just as God forgave you in Christ.
Ephesians 4:32*

Jesus wraps a servant's girdle around his waist, and takes up a basin,
and kneels before one of his disciples.
He unlaces a sandal and gently lifts the foot and places it in the basin, covers it with water,
and begins to bathe it. One by one, one grimy foot after another,
Jesus works his way down the row.
You can be sure Jesus knows these twenty-four feet will not spend the next day
following their master, defending his cause.
These feet will dash for cover at the flash of a Roman sword.
Only one pair of feet won't abandon him.
One disciple won't desert him at Gethsemane—Judas won't even make it that far!
Behold the gift Jesus gives his followers! He knows what these men are about to do.
And when they do, he wants them to remember how his knees knelt
before them and he washed their feet.
He wants them to realize those feet are still clean.
He forgave their sin before they even committed it.
He offered mercy before they even sought it.

Just like Jesus

- **Congratulations to Shelagh Wirth on the birth of her great-grandson, Henry Boyd Wirth. Boyd was born Tuesday, 3/11/25, to Drew & Kaitlyn Wirth.**



- **Please join us for Love Revolution in the Pavilion on Sunday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and help us serve food to our neighbors in need!**
- **Our very own Edith Blanchett will be celebrating her 98th birthday on April 3rd!! Let's flood her mailbox with cards and love! Contact the church office for her address if you do not have it and would like to participate.**

- Our Thursday morning 1st John Bible study, led by Pastor Jim, will continue tomorrow morning, 3/13/25, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Classroom, with Lesson #8.
- Bruce C Hurley will continue leading a 6-lesson Bible study NEXT THURSDAY, March 20, at 5 pm in the FELLOWSHIP Classroom. **There is NO meeting THIS Thursday, 3/13th**. The study is based on Dr. Bruce Metzger's *Revelation: A Symphony in Six Movements* and will meet each Thursday evening. Please read Revelation 14:6 – 18:24 in preparation.
- **NEXT Thursday, 3/20/25, Annah will be out of the office for a weekend vacation trip.**
- **Our Fellowship & Roads To Faith Adult Sunday School classes, (who are currently meeting together,) are studying the Gospel of John. All adults of the church--and friends--are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Classroom on Sunday mornings at 9:45!**
- **SOPC BOOK GROUP is excitedly entering a new season. This month, they are reading *How To Read a Book* by Monica Wood. They will meet to discuss it and share fellowship on Thursday, March 27th, at 1:30 pm at Snow's Ice Cream. If you have questions, they are welcome! The group would love to greet new faces as well! Contact Kitsie Miller, 803-463-6958, if you plan to attend or need more information.**
- **Session's next meeting will be on Monday, March 17th.**
- **This Sunday, our YOUTH will meet here at SOPC at 5:30 pm. There will be food, fun, fellowship, a Lent lesson, and a discussion of summer mission opportunities. Please feel free to contact Julie Bussells with any questions or for more information: 803-622-9509.**
- **SOPC will host a meeting of Trinity Presbytery on Tuesday, November 18th. VOLUNTEERS are needed to greet, direct parking, serve lunch, man check-in, etc..**
- **If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!**
- **There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion service and light meal on April 17th at 5:30 pm in the youth room.**
- **So far, we have collected 125 POUNDS of used crayons that will be sorted, melted down, and made into new, ergonomic, free crayons for pediatric hospital patients. Since 2013, TheCrayonInitiative.org has saved over 432,000 pounds of discarded crayons from landfills and has created/distributed 1 MILLION packs of free crayons.**



- We are in the Christian season of Lent. Other than a purple drape on the cross, what does that mean? Here is the web address of an article from the PCUSA website that answers some FAQ regarding Lent: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2017/3/22/give-and-take-lent> .
- Our Good News Ministry stands ready and equipped with technological tools to welcome new disciples into the SOPC family. Please join us in praying for God's guidance in ways we can reach out to our neighbors and invite them to share in Christ's love and mission with us!
- Our 2025 Elder Nominating Committee is: Liz Harris, Chair; Jeanne LeBoeuf, Vice-Chair; Cathy Keelen; Frank Sheppard; and Jim Taylor, with Julie Bussells representing SOPW. Nomination forms are available in the narthex, inserted below, and from the church office, (clear plastic box on the wall by Annah's door.) What faithful disciples at SOPC do you know who would make great Elders and additions to our Session?
- If you have cans' pop-tops that you have been collecting, Annah would be happy to deliver them to Ronald McDonald House charities periodically. Just leave them in the large baskets on either side of the sanctuary doors or bring them by the church office.
- Our next churchwide Fellowship meal will be THIS Sunday, March 16th—a luncheon after worship **IN THE YOUTH ROOM**, not the Fellowship Hall. Please enter the building without walking through the big room, as another church will be worshipping in there during our luncheon. Please join us for corned beef, cabbage, and other Irish shenanigans!



- **From the Saluda Shoals Foundation newsletter:**
Local Artist Shares Beautiful Watercolor

Noted watercolorist Kathy Morganelli has allowed the Foundation to use her beautiful image of a heron on the banks at Saluda Shoals Park as the notecard to recognize donors who make gifts in honor or in memory of someone.

Kathy's light-filled approach touches your heart and inspires you to experience the wonders and magic of water and color on paper.

Kathy is also working on a book. This art piece is accompanied by a poem:

**"The Spirit of the River"
Perhaps just feathers, sinew and bone
sitting still hiding alone,
blending in the river's mist now rising.
Take flight, oh beautiful one.
Let your heart soar above the horizon.**



Get to Know Your Friends at SOPC a Little Better, by Mark Dillard
This Leaflet's Interviewee: Ed Keelen

Where did you grow up? What did your parents do?

I grew up on the north side of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and lived there in two different homes for 19 years. I had a wonderful childhood and was part of a “gang” that played sports together and other activities like riding bikes after school. I grew up as a Presbyterian and my parents were very active in the church. My Dad was a structural engineer, and my Mom taught English until it was time to spend full-time raising my sister and me.

Where'd you go to college?

I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. I also earned a master's in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh by attending their evening program while I held down a full-time job with Westinghouse.

What did you do professionally?

I had a 40-year career with Westinghouse in a variety of capacities: engineer, project manager, manufacturing manager, and executive manager on the staff of the Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel facility off of Bluff Road.

What are your hobbies?

I am a “tinkerer”, and run a nonprofit named *Enabletech*, which makes assistive technology devices for people with disabilities. Check out www.enabletech.org More recently, I have taken up writing and have published two books, *Helpful Reflections for Difficult Times*, and *Coping and Hoping*, a book of poetry chronicling how I handled my illnesses and my relationship with God during that time. (Available from me or from Amazon).

What else do you enjoy?

Anything spiritual. I meditate using the method of Centering Prayer for 20 minutes twice per day. I belong to a creative writing group that has sharpened and broadened my writing skills. Depending on my health, I am an active Yoga practitioner and am trained to lead a chair Yoga group.

Any words of wisdom or philosophy you'd care to share?

In 2016, I wrote an essay called “Last Chance Talk” which presents my wisdom as though I were on my deathbed. I presented it as a SS class lesson. I will be glad to email a copy to anyone who is interested.

If I were to sum up my current philosophy, it is contained in two of my “mantras”:

- 1). “To see the goodness of God and the preciousness of life through the lens of pain and suffering.” I am convinced that suffering is a significant pathway to transformation.
- 2) “To Pray and Press On” God has a plan for each of us, which we discern in prayer and then take action. It is my prayer that each of us dedicates our time to becoming the best disciple of Jesus that we can be.

Edited for space. Next interview: **Banks Robinson**

- Our S OPC Presbyterian Women will host the Annual Birthday Celebration Dinner, hosting the ladies of our church, McGregor PC, Westminster PC, Providence PC, and Presbyterian Communities, on Tuesday, May 13th, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be speakers from the Columbia Rapid Shelter and from Love Revolution.
- SOPW's Honorary Life Membership Award will be presented during worship on Sunday, May 18th.
- Our PW leaders are excitedly planning a Ladies' Spring Retreat.
- Teaser for this Sunday, 3/16/25:

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21



The church is now accepting orders for lilies to adorn our sanctuary on April 20th, Easter Sunday!



Easter Lilies 2025

It is SOPC's tradition to adorn our Sanctuary with lilies for the Easter worship service.

You may purchase a lily to be given in celebration of the resurrection, to the glory of God, and/or in appreciation/memory/honor of a loved one, friend, or church family member.

Names of donors, (unless they wish to remain anonymous,) and those honored will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. You may pick up your lily after worship on Easter Sunday.

Please complete this form and place it with payment in the offering basket or submit it to the church office. Please make checks payable to SOPC with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. If you pay online, please designate it as "Other," type in "Easter Lily," and check the option that covers the church's credit card processing fees.

The deadline to order is Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Please print clearly. Write names as you wish them to be listed in the bulletin.

_____ (Qty.) Easter Lilies x \$16.00 each = \$_____ Total Amount

Donor Name(s): _____

Do You Wish to Remain Anonymous? Yes / No (Circle one.)

Donor Phone # &/or Email: _____

In Appreciation of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God

In Celebration of the Resurrection

Save The Date: Family Promise Gala



PRESENTS

FAMILY PROMISE OF THE MIDLANDS

2025 NIGHT OF PROMISE GALA

"THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

EVERY CHILD DESERVES ONE

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER CRAIG MELVIN

THURSDAY

APRIL 10 2025

6:30-10:30 PM

DRESS IN FORMAL ATTIRE FOR A NIGHT IN
THE EMERALD CITY

**COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER
EXHIBIT HALL**



SCAN TO PURCHASE
TICKETS



Our congregation votes on elders to serve on the Session, exercising leadership, government, and discipline, and having responsibility for the life of our church.

Elders should be “persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills of leadership and being compassionate in spirit.” (Book of Order G-2.03)

Any active member of SOPC may be nominated unless he or she is currently serving a second consecutive term on the Session.

Suggested Names for Nomination:

Please reach out to your listed nominees to ensure that they wish to serve in this capacity before returning this form. If you would like to comment on your reasons for nominating these persons, please feel free to do so on the back of this page. Your name is optional. Please place this form in one of the offering boxes in the narthex. You can also drop it by the church office or hand it to someone on the Nominating

Committee:

Liz Harris (Chair) lizzi.sc@gmail.com

Jeanne LeBoeuf (Vice Chair)

Julie Bussells (Representing PW)

Cathy Keelen

Frank Sheppard

Jim Taylor



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN TRINITY PRESBYTERY
ANNUAL GATHERING**

Saturday, April 5, 2025

**Fellowship Camp & Conference Center
457 Camp Fellowship Rd, Waterloo, SC 29384
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Onsite registration opens @ 9:00 am
Program starts @ 10:00 am**



Dawn Smith Jordan is our speaker for the 2025 Annual Gathering. Dawn is a Christ-follower, singer/songwriter, musician, speaker, charting recording artist with Urgent Records, and published author. Dawn grew up the daughter of a Baptist deacon daddy and choir singing mama. As a high school student, she felt the call of God on her life to full-time ministry. In 1985 Dawn's younger sister Shari was kidnapped and murdered just two days before her high school graduation, resulting in the largest manhunt in South Carolina's history, drawing national attention. In 1986 Dawn received a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Columbia College in Columbia, SC. She went on to become Miss South Carolina 1986 and 2nd runner-up to Miss America. As Dawn ministers, she intertwines a combination of music, testimony, humor, transparency, and most importantly, the Truth found in God's Word. She incorporates both music and speaking during her ministry time, including her original songs, worship, as well as the beloved hymns of the faith.

An offering will be taken during the meeting which will be donated partially to our speaker, and partially to Camp Fellowship to help them recover from damage sustained during Hurricane Helene. Offering checks to support these efforts should be made payable to: **PW of Trinity Presbytery.**

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

REGISTRATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH 21, 2025
\$35 before March 22, 2025; \$40 at door (includes lunch)**

NAME: _____

CHURCH NAME: _____ CLUSTER #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT PHONE #: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK, PAYABLE TO: **PW of TRINITY PRESBYTERY**

**MAIL TO: MARY FUHRMAN, TREASURER
109 CEDAR COURT
LAURENS, SC 29360**