

SOPC Leaflet, Wednesday, March 19, 2025



Dear SOPC Disciples,

18 March 2025

I wanted to take a little time and update the congregation about where SOPC is at the present time. I know there is some concern at present about where SOPC is headed and its future. To clear up one thing, no one except our Lord Jesus Christ knows the long-term future. However, the Session of SOPC is taking steps, with the Lord's help, to help clear up the near future and give the congregation a path to follow.

A number of things have taken place in this new year that I will inform you of now.

1. The Session of SOPC has renewed my Terms of Call for the year 2025, so unless there is something unforeseen, I plan to be with you for the year 2025.
2. Last year, at my suggestion, and due to 2024 being such a transitional year for SOPC, the Session decided to use the Fall of 2024 to find out where the church stood financially and do a facility assessment to learn of short and long-term needs of the physical plant. Those things were completed.
3. The Session held a retreat in early February. At that retreat, the Session was informed of where things are financially as well as our facility needs for the future. Based on that information the Session discussed the reality of where things are presently at SOPC with respect to income, expenses, and facilities, as well as future pastoral leadership and began discussions for "Next Steps."
4. At the February meeting of Session, Session formed a Steering Committee, comprised of Kathy Keane, Elizabeth Taylor, Banks Robinson and Bruce Hurley, to begin exploring the future story or "Next Steps." The purpose of this Steering Committee will be two-fold.
 - a. To develop and recommend a Future Story for SOPC to the Session for Session's approval.
 - b. After Session approval, to plan a process to involve the congregation in the writing of that Future Story.

The Steering Committee has already been meeting and will be meeting on a regular basis to begin to prepare the outline of "Next Steps." This process will take a little time, so please keep them in your prayers.

Please know that SOPC is blessed with good and strong leadership. You, the congregation, have elected wise, talented, and dedicated Elders to provide you leadership and they will be working hard to develop the future path for SOPC.

The Session also requests your prayers in the coming months as they do their work. The Session will also keep you informed of the process as we go forward together.

I, as your Interim Pastor, look forward to being with you and am committed to providing for your ministerial needs for the near future. You are a warm congregation, and I have greatly enjoyed my time with you.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Rowell – Interim Pastor

530 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210; 803-772-1761; www.sopc.net; sopc@sopc.net

- There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025, following the worship service for the purpose of hearing a report from the Officer Nominating Committee.
- **Pastor Jim's Acorn Devotion for the Week:**
The Basin of God's Grace

*The Blood of Jesus, God's Son,
Cleanses us from every sin.
1 John 1:7*

John tells us, “*We are being cleansed* from every sin by the blood of Jesus.” In other words, we are *always being cleansed*. The Cleansing is not a promise for the future but a reality in the present. Let a speck of dust fall on the soul of a saint, and it washed away. Let a spot of filth land on the heart of God's child, and the filth is wiped away.

Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, “I can clean if you want.” And from the basin of his grace, He scoops a palm full of mercy and washes away our sin.

But that's not all he does. Because he lives in us, you and I can do the same. Because he has forgiven us, we can forgive others.

Now that is what Jesus does!

Written by Pastor Jim Rowell from SOPC's 1 John Bible Study

- **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 Clothing Closet will open 30 minutes prior.**
- **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 on Revelation TOMORROW, March 20, at 5 pm in the FELLOWSHIP Classroom. The study is based on Dr. Bruce Metzger's *Revelation: A Symphony in Six Movements* and will conclude next Thursday, March 27th. Please read Revelation 14:6 – 18:24 in preparation for tomorrow.**
- **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!**



LADIES, YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF
SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOR A GREEK EXPERIENCE IN COLUMBIA!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 AT 10:30 AM

FATHER MICHAEL OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL, 1900 MAIN STREET, COLUMBIA, SC 29201,
WILL LEAD US ON A TOUR OF THE CATHEDRAL, AND
THEN...

WE'LL SHARE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT GRECIAN
GARDENS RESTAURANT, 2312 SUNSET BLVD., WEST
COLUMBIA, SC 29169. **OPA!**

PLEASE LET JEANNE LEBOEUF KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO
ATTEND OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. 803-381-5566
OR JLEBOEUF@SC.RR.COM. THE RESTAURANT NEEDS A
HEAD COUNT AHEAD OF TIME.

- **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, April 21st.
- This Sunday, our YOUTH will meet here at SOPC at 3:00 pm. We will serve our neighbors in need at Love Revolution and help out in the Clothing Closet. We'll be done by 5:00 pm. No meal this week as part of youth group, but good snacks! 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.



- 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!

- **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.**
- **Parents of Young Children: Please grab a "Wiggle Bag" from the Narthex / lobby before worship starts and remember that the little ones go to the Children's Corner after the Children's Message during the service. Thanks!**
- **Our next churchwide Fellowship meal will be BREAKFAST on Easter Sunday! Stay tuned for more details!**



- **Our SOPC 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.**
- **Teaser for this Sunday, 3/16/25:**



- **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



**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**