

*The Leaflet*  
...a weekly newsletter of SOPC  
in Columbia, SC.



May 27, 2026



One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of the older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour either. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven.... I just love biscuits!

The deacon didn't stop there. "Lord," he said, help us realize when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

It's amazing how a baker can take things we don't like and mix them together with other ingredients and come up with something we love. If a baker can do this just imagine what God can do.

In Christ,  
Rodney



- **Our youth will meet on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please be on the lookout for texts or call Julie Bussells at 803-622-9509 for details.**



### **Joint Fundraiser for Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz, our partner church in Cuba:**

Our partner church in Cuba desperately needs our help!!! These are excerpts from an email sent by Tirisay, pastor of the church: "...Our community, despite everything we've been through, keeps going, trying to serve and share...I am immensely grateful for your concern and desire to help us...We had electricity on Easter Sunday, and today they finally restored it after 45 hours without power. After two days in this situation, it is impossible to maintain and encourage...when the little food people have is spoiling, there's no water, everything is expensive, and there's no medicine or food...installing solar panels is proving feasible...[that way,]the church can continue its activities, and we can create a community service [hub] to help people recharge their phones, computers, fans, ...[refrigerate] food..."

**What has Seven Oaks done so far?** We are working with another Cuba Partner, the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs in IL., to collect donations for solar panels. The total cost is around \$8,000. Westminster Pres. here in Columbia is having a bake/bbq sale with proceeds going to help with the solar panels.

**How can I help?** Please prayerfully consider making a monetary donation.

**When does this start?** THIS Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Robert Miller will share a Minute for Mission in worship about this effort. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact him, Tish Lowe, and/or Kathy Keane. Please call the church office at 803-772-1761 if you need their contact information.

**Please make checks payable to *SOPC*, with *Cuba* or *Cuba Solar Panels* in the memo line. Cash donations should be placed in envelopes marked *Cuba*.** These can be placed in the offering or brought to the church office. **To donate online**, please go to <https://sopc.net/giving/>, and click the button that says "GIVE." On the page it takes you to, please enter the dollar amount you would like to donate, select "Other" in the funds' drop-down menu beneath the dollar amount, and specify "Cuba" in the Memo line that appears. Selecting the option to cover the churches' credit card processing fees in a following step when prompted, allows your gift to go even further to help our Cuban siblings in faith.



Ashland UMC

Our neighbors at Ashland United Methodist Church have invited us to join them for VBS this summer! Since we are taking a break from VBS this year here at SOPC, we definitely encourage anyone interested to participate with them. Their theme is *Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God*. They will have VBS June 15-19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon. Parents/grandparents can register their children here: <https://ashland-umc.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>. Adult volunteers from our church should contact their Pastor, Rev. Jonathan Harris. If you have questions, or to volunteer to help, Ashland's church office phone number is 803-798-5350. You can also contact them through their website: <https://www.ashlandumc.org/>.

## CHURCH HISTORY



Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the last Church History Bible study until autumn. In the fall, we will focus on *The Church in America*. – Bruce Hurley



June 30: We will prepare, deliver, and serve a meal to Migrant Ministry. This ministry is where our Father's Day offering goes. For more information, contact Jim Taylor or Tish Lowe.



- **September 2 we will host a Red Cross Blood Drive. Contact Tish Lowe to volunteer to help, or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to sign up to donate blood. Annah in the church office will be happy to help anyone not comfortable with the online sign up. 803-772-1761.**



- **Our next Ladies' Luncheon will be Monday, June 15, at noon at Longhorn's Steakhouse on Harbison Blvd. Please let Margaret Royals know if you plan to attend or have questions. [mroyals052@gmail.com](mailto:mroyals052@gmail.com) or 803-608-1434.**



- **The next meeting of our Book Club will be tomorrow, Thursday, 5/28/26, at 3 pm at Loveland Coffee on Carlisle Street in Irmo. They will be discussing Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See. Please contact Kitsie Miller if you plan to attend. All are welcome!**



- **If anyone in our church family would benefit from wheelchair service from the car into worship, we would be happy to assist you! When you arrive Sunday morning, have whoever is driving you enter the narthex and inform the usher that you are in the parking lot. The usher or a greeter will then bring a wheelchair out to your car to get you. They will also take you out to your car after worship. It is our pleasure to do this! If you need a ride to church, please contact your shepherd or the church office.**
- **If you are at the store and are able & feel led to pick up a few items for our Blessing Box / Food Pantry/Clothing Closet, we could use some body wipes and/or bottles of water.**
- **We're collecting cans' pop tops! So far, we have donated 7 gallon-sized Ziploc bags FULL of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.**

- **We can train folks so that we can show videos with our Minutes for Missions before worship. This training with Karl will take several weeks before the desired event, and needs to be scheduled well in advance. Thanks!**
- **If you would like to volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!**
- **Save the Date:**
  - **May 31: Trinity Sunday**
  - **June 7: Communion**
  - **June 14: Elder Ordination & Installation**
  - **June 21: Father's Day; Migrant Ministry Offering**
  - **June 28: Elder Installation Cont'd.; Rev. Alice Odell in the Pulpit**
  - **June 30: Migrant Ministry Meal**
  - **July 21: SOPW Salad Luncheon**
  - **September 2: Blood Drive**
  - **October 17: Fall Festival**
- **If you have information to go out to our church family in the Leaflet and/or bulletin, please get it to Annah by the Tuesday before. Thanks!**