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

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Oct. 14, 2026

Do you ever wonder how certain phrases came to be? I do. Why are our thoughts only worth a penny? Why do we park in a driveway and drive on a parkway? Why does a doctor practice medicine? That one really troubles me!

In the old days the floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt—hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence: a *thresh hold*.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: “Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.” Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat.”

Now you know.

In Christ,

Rodney

Here is a hint from Pastor Rodney about our worship service this Sunday, 10/18/26:

October is clergy appreciation month, and we certainly have a lot to appreciate in Rev. Rodney & Mrs. Nina Norris! The Administration Ministry invites you to spend a few moments reflecting on all that the Norris family means to you, your family, our church, and the community. Then, write your reflections down in a note, on a card, or in an email. You will find a box with botanical print on it in the narthex. On the top of the box are the words "Grateful & Blessed." Please place your reflections of gratitude in this box during the month of October or email them directly to Pastor Rodney at rev.norris@sopc.net.

<u>Here are a few words from Dr. Danny Murphy that outline the importance of and need for clergy appreciation</u>:

> *"Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work…"* — 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NLT)
>
> Dear Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,
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> Every Sunday, pastors stand behind pulpits carrying more than sermon notes.
>
> They carry grieving families.

They carry marriages hanging by a thread.
They carry hospital visits, midnight phone calls, financial counseling sessions, addiction recovery conversations, and the spiritual weight of an entire congregation.

Yet many church members never see the personal cost of that calling.

And in a culture where social media often highlights celebrity pastors and megachurch headlines, it becomes easy to assume most pastors are thriving financially. The data tells a far more sobering story.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for clergy in America is $58,920. Meanwhile, the U.S. Census Bureau reports the median American household income at approximately $83,730.

That represents a substantial income gap between the average pastor and the average American household.

For many pastors, ministry is not a path to comfort. It is a life of sacrifice.

Numerous ministry-focused studies and church health surveys have documented rising pastoral burnout, financial strain, and vocational pressure across the country. Pastors are increasingly navigating emotional exhaustion while trying to faithfully lead congregations through cultural division, economic uncertainty, family crises, and declining community engagement.

And yet, despite those realities, pastors continue showing up.

- They pray when others panic.
- They encourage when others quit.
- They stand at gravesides, sit in emergency rooms, preach through personal pain, and continue serving even when their own tanks are running low.

That is why Pastor Appreciation Month matters.

Not because pastors are celebrities.
But because shepherds need encouragement, too.

Scripture reminds believers in 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 to “respect those who labor among you” and to esteem them highly in love because of their work. Ministry is not merely public speaking; it is spiritual labor. It is emotional labor. It is Kingdom work.

Appreciation should go beyond a social media post or a handshake in the church lobby.

Pastor Appreciation Month is an opportunity for congregations to:

- Pray intentionally for their pastors and families
- Offer encouragement through handwritten notes or testimonies
- Provide financial support or practical assistance where possible
- Protect their pastors from unrealistic expectations and constant criticism
- Remember that spiritual leaders are human beings who also need care, rest, and support

The healthiest churches are not built on consumers demanding perfection from leaders. They are built on communities that honor, strengthen, and support those faithfully serving them.

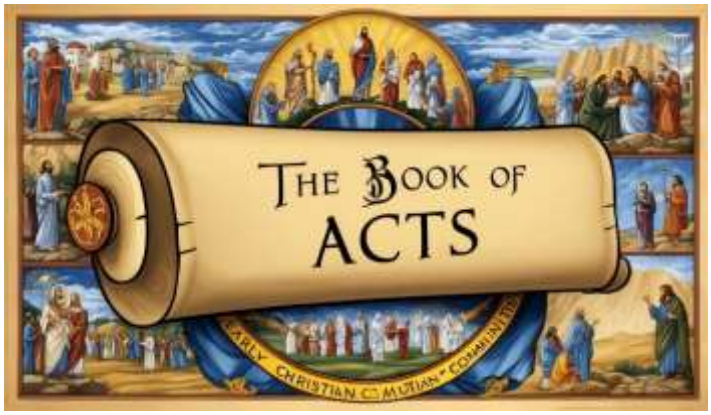
Behind many pulpits is not a millionaire.

It is a servant of God trying to faithfully answer a costly calling.

And this Pastor Appreciation Month, perhaps the greatest gift the church can offer is not applause—but understanding.

Faithfully Yours, Dr. Danny C. Murphy, General Presbyter & Stated Clerk, Trinity Presbytery

- **Our Fall Festival is THIS SATURDAY! Please share this flyer with friends, family, neighbors, teammates, coworkers, and on social media. Whether or not you have children, come out and join the community fellowship! Special thanks go out to Ash Shuler for 3D printing some toys to be given out to the children as prizes!**



- **Everyone is invited to attend the Adult Sunday School Class' exciting study on the Book of Acts, each Sunday at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Classroom! Acts is about the birth and growth of the early Christian church following the ascension of Christ. It follows the ministries of the apostles, especially Peter and Paul, despite persecution, imprisonment, fear, and cultural clashes. We will be learning about the power of the Holy Spirit, the faithfulness of the early believers, and the sovereignty of God. These anchor this study of the growth of the early Christian church!**

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
& Love Revolution

You are warmly invited to celebrate

60 Years

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

&

Five Years

Love Revolution

A Fish Fry Supper

Sunday, October 18th

Gathering around 3:30 pm

Supper served at 4:00 pm

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

All are welcome — church family, faithful volunteers, and our Love Revolution guests alike.

"Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, gave thanks, and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people."

Matthew 14:19

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Matthew 25:35

- **Here are a few pictures from Pastor Rodney's installation service and reception on 10/4/26. There will be more images to come in the future.**

- **<u>Our sister church in Nueva Paz, Cuba needs our help</u>. They are unable to get over-the-counter medicines. Ther diet is lacking. Therefore, it is critical that they supplement with multi-vitamins, which they are unable to buy. We will be <u>collecting in the basket in the narthex</u> for several weeks. Please consider contributing to this project. Anything is much appreciated. If you have questions, contact Kathy Keane. A list of specific needed items is below:**

Multi-Vitamins for Men
Multi-Vitamins for Women
Multi-Vitamins for Children
Acetaminophen
Ibuprofen
Aspirin
Infants'/Children's:Tylenol and Ibuprofen
Allergy: Benadryl, Citricine (Zyrtec), Loratadine (Claritin)
Flu Medicines
Cough Medicines
Pain reliever Cream for Arthritis

Benadryl Cream
Oral rehydration salts (ORS)
Imodium
Alka Seltzer
Pepto Bismol
Hemorrhoid cream
Vicks VapoRub
Eyeglasses with different prescriptions
Toiletries – shampoo, toothpaste, soap

- **Our siblings in faith at McGregor PC have invited us to join them for a presentation from Lighthouse for Life about human sex trafficking and how it affects our community and the world.**

It's time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary at Christmas!

The cost is $14 per plant, payable to SOPC, due by Sunday, November 8th.

Please place this form with your payment in the offering plates or return it to the church office. If you pay online, please select "Other," type in, "Poinsettia Order," and opt to cover the credit card processing charges. Thanks!

Your Name:_____

Your Email Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ x $14 = $ _____ Total

In Honor / Memory of: _____

_____

_____

THE LOVE REVOLUTION

- As you know, every Sunday, we *host* ***Love Revolution***, a free meal in the Pavilion for those in need in the community every Sunday. Bring a dish if you can. If not, you can just show up to help serve around 3:30 pm! The 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month are our days to lead the way in food preparation and volunteer servers. Sundays are FULL of opportunities to serve after worship! Our Clothing Closet and ShowerUp ministry both open at 2 pm each week. These, along with the Love Revolution meals and fellowship time, are truly a beacon of hope for those less fortunate in our community. If you have questions about any of our "Service Sunday" programs, or would like to help us serve as the hands and feet of God in our community, give the church office a call at 803-772-1761 or email us at sopc@sopc.net. We'll connect you with folks that can answer your questions, share their stories of the impact of these vital missions, and get you ready to start volunteering if you'd like to.

ShowerUp
Shower Grace. Hope. Love.

- **Youth, we will help with the Fall Festival on Saturday and enjoy the Fish Fry on Sunday at 4pm with our church family and Love Revolution neighbors!**

- **The October Ladies Luncheon will be held THIS Monday, October 19th at noon at Carolina Wings, 1000 Marina Rd., Irmo. It's Dutch treat. If attending, please notify Margaret Royals at 803-608-1434.**

- **SOPC's Book Group will gather at Loveland Coffee on Thursday, October 29, at 3 pm for fellowship and to discuss *How the One Armed Sister Sweeps Her House* by Cherie Jones. Contact Kitsie Miller for more information, to let her know you're coming, or just to say, "Hi!"**
- **Copy and paste this link you're your browser to read the latest updates from The Turks, the missionaries we support in Madagascar.**

https://preview.mailerlite.io/emails/webview/2622989/200153018681788268?signature=11de6a9fa1e5a8a9ceca5e713e53995e06c4920e9bbdc1dadfb29c10562bb9fb

- **Curious about our Troop 91 Scouts?! Please see the flyer attaached to the email this newsletter came in.**

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If you are at the store and are able & feel led, our food pantry could use some **single-serving-size-salty-snacks. Thanks!**
- **1. Please leave the "Fan" setting on all SOPC thermostats set to "Auto," NOT "On." During the warm days, if the fan is set to "On," it just blows hot air into the rooms. (And, vice versa on cold days.) Thank you! 2. If you notice maintenance concerns or have room set-up requests for events, Karl welcomes you to call or text him directly on his church cell phone at 803-237-4519. It's easier for him to hear requests directly from you to avoid confusion and to facilitate him asking relevant questions.**

- **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!**

Hello, SOPC Folks! My name is Feather. My gosling son, Puddles, and I are the new SOPC office geese. We've gotten quite a warm welcome from everyone who has come by the office so far. We look forward to meeting you soon and showing you our seasonal outfits throughout the coming years!! The first one we're modeling this week is not Pastor Rodney's favorite,

as he is a Clemson Tiger. We're geese who identify as Gamecocks during football season.

You've always known that there was a silly goose in the church office named Annah. We're here to confirm it! We'll also keep our eyes on the church while the rest of the staff has gone home for the night…any suspicious or mal-intending characters should "Beware of the Beaks!"

If you have information that you would like to go out to our church family in the Leaflet and/or bulletin, please get it to Annah in the church office by the Tuesday before. Thanks!

sopc@sopc.net or 803-772-1761

Also, please don't forget that a digital, up-to-the-minute church calendar is available at https://sopc.net/calendar/.