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

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Oct. 28, 2026

This Sunday during worship, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all those who, through the ages, have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles … the noble fellowship of prophets … the white-robed army of martyrs" (*Te Deum*). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who, in ages of darkness, kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

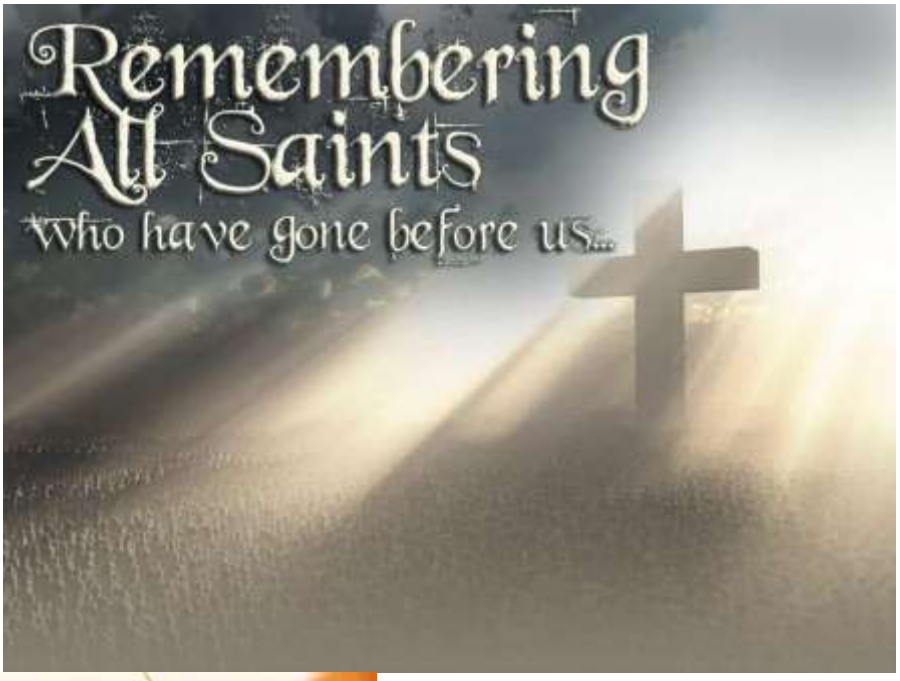
To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud. It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end time. In this context, on All Saints' Day, it is appropriate for a congregation to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year, to acknowledge the impact they had and continue to have on our lives. We remember the dear friends and kindred of our homes whose faces we see no more, but whose love is ever with us.

In Christ,

Rodney

- 2: Bill Salter
- 5: Beckett Tapler; Alexander Will
- 11: Tommy Reiser
- 17: Tish Lowe; Charlaine Pilkington
- 18: Robert Miller
- 19: Natalie Will
- 22: Julie Bussells; John Carter
- 29: Frances Ilonzeh

Here is a hint from Pastor Rodney about our worship service this Sunday, 11/1/26. If we have any country music fans in the church family, the sermon title this week is *Travis Tritt is Right!*



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night. We'd love to have you an hour early for church, but you might enjoy that extra hour of sleep and/or cup of coffee!

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 for one last Sunday, 11/1/26. 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.

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
September	$30,228	$18,650	$11,578
YTD 2026	$177,894	$167,850	$10,044

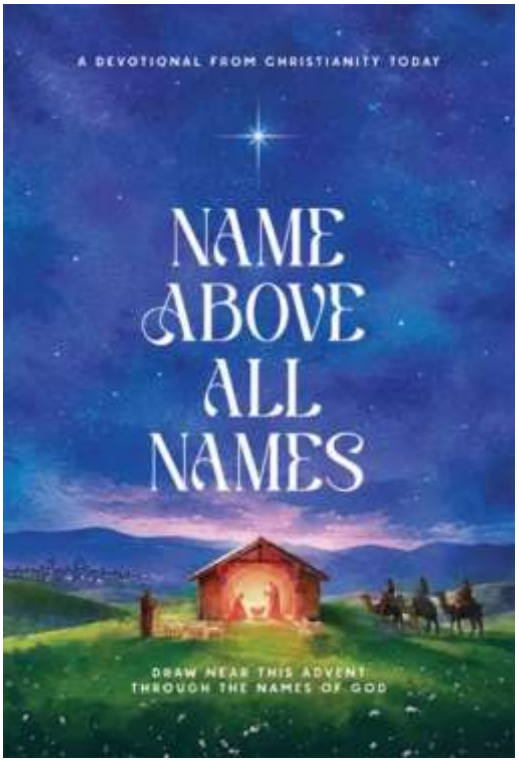
Total revenue for the first 9 months of 2026 (including other income such as rent) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through September	$223,358
Total Expenses through September	$208,164
Revenues in excess of Expenses	$ 15,194

- **NEXT Sunday, November 8th is Dedication Sunday for our Stewardship efforts for 2027. Please make every effort to attend in person as we affirm our commitment, in covenant with God, to lifting SOPC into its next season! If you have not already returned your Time & Talent inventory form and/or your financial pledge, there will be a time for you to do so during worship on the 8th. If you need an extra copy of the blank forms, they are available in the narthex and from the church office.**
- **MORE Justice *Community Problems Assembly* is TOMORROW, Thursday, October 29th. Starts at 6 PM at Bethel AME on Woodrow St. Hope to see lots of members there to see how the organization works.**

- **Our Small-Town Adventures Group will explore Hartsville, SC on Wednesday, November 4th. For more information or to join the fun, contact Marion Wishart.**

- **The Christian Education Ministry is providing each family in the church with a copy of Name of Above All Names, an Advent Devotional book from Christianity Today. The books will be available in the narthex starting Sunday, November 15th and have devotions for you and your family to read together every day in Advent: November 29th – December 25th. This will be a great way to center your hearts and minds around the true meaning of Christmas and "prepare the way" for peace, hope, joy, and love to be born anew in you, just as they were in the manger that 1st Holy Night!**
- **There will not be a churchwide Fellowship meal in November, but never fear! Our annual Prime Rib Christmas Fellowship meal is set for Sunday, December 13th (the 2nd Sunday of the month this time rather than the 3rd.) It's a LUNCHEON after worship this year. We will take reservations closer to the date.**



- **November is Thornwell Emphasis Month. Tish Lowe will share a Minute for Mission with us on November 15th about this vital ministry, and we will collect our annual Thornwell offering on November 22nd. If you know a young person or special adult who would enjoy collecting quarters for the effort, we have "turkey cards" in the church office for them. The have slits cut in them to hold the quarters. Each week in November, Thornwell is providing us with information to share with the church family about what they do. Here is a link to a YouTube video for this week: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv3rnT5bHik .**

- **Save the Date: We will host our annual Family Promsie Basketball Clinic & Lunch on Saturday, January 23rd, from 11 am until 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. John Paul Sellars' basketball team will lead the clinic. Please contact Tish Lowe, Missions Ministry Chair, if you would like to volunteer.**

- **Our sister church in Nueva Paz, Cuba needs our help. 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 collecting in the basket in the narthex 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

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: _____

_____

_____

November is a month when a lot of people focus on gratitude. Wouldn't it be great if we could all incorporate more thankfulness to God for all our blessings all year long? At our recent Fall Festival, the Children's Ministry welcomed guests with a goody bag. In these bags, in addition to other treats and information, they placed copies of a *30 Days of Gratitude Challenge* calendar. This Sunday, you will find copies of the same calendar in your worship bulletin. Let's intentionally get in the habit of noticing and focusing on that for which we are grateful. The calendar is also attached to the email this *Leaflet* newsletter arrived in.

Congratulations to our Missions Ministry team, with special thanks to Robert Miller, on being a awarded a $936 grant from the Discipleship & Resource Team of Trinity Presbytery! The funds will be used to continue and further our ministry with our neighbors in need at Love Revolution and ShowerUp!

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!**

ShowerUp
Shower Grace. Hope. Love.

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.

- **Youth, we will meet in the SOPC Youth Room at 5:30 pm this Sunday for a meal, worship, Lesson 2 of our *Unlabeled* series, games, and fall service project. Bring a friend!**

- 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!**

Feather & Puddles, here, SOPC's Office Geese, checking in! How do you like our Beak-or-Treat outfits?! We just got to meet the children from Peaceful Gatherings Nature School who meet on our campus during the week! They came by the offices and Trick-or-Treated in their costumes. We must say, they were pretty honking cute! As far as other people dressed up in costumes, we only have one to report. Do any of you recognize the man on the right? He was **spotted** 2 weeks ago giving the Children's Message during worship. Rumor has it, he can assume other identities for Children's Messages as well. Let's invite some young families to church and find out! We hope that you and yours have a safe, fun weekend!

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/.