

# Seneca

## Presbyterian Church

115 W. S. First Street  
Seneca, SC 29678

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We are located at the corner of Oak St. and  
South First St. in downtown Seneca.  
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[senecachurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:senecachurch@bellsouth.net)

Website:  
[www.senecapresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.senecapresbyterianchurch.com)

Pastor's Blog "Seedlings"  
[www.revmorris.blogspot.com](http://www.revmorris.blogspot.com)



Come Worship With Us!

## January 2012

# THE PRESBY PRESS

### *A word from our Pastor*

What is it about fresh new beginnings that prompt us all to dream? Even though we rarely keep them, I doubt many of us have given up entirely on New Year's resolutions. We have an eternal longing to think positively about the future and about our ability to shape it. So – at the beginning of 2012, what shape will the future have for Seneca Presbyterian Church?

Before venturing to conjecture about the new year, let me offer thanks for the year just past. 2011 brought us Richard Caldwell as our Parish Associate, and what a blessing that continues to be. Let me thank Richard once again for all that he does for you and for me and for the Kingdom of God. Susan, too! It is good to have both of them back among us.

Last year we also began our New Member Classes (also for just inquirers). Thanks to the vision and hard work of Diana Owens, the new members of our church family have a chance to get to know us, our Presbyterian/Reformed heritage, and each other in a gracious and welcoming format. 2012 will begin with another class series – and another wonderful class of new members. Thank you Diana and all your helpers.

Other remarkable milestones in 2011 included a wonderful VBS, the solid continuation of our Parents Night Out program, a third successful OPSF Challenge, and our remarkable and memorable apron auction. Thanks go to everyone involved in making these events so significant. Thanks as well to all of you who continue to maintain important ministries related to worship, education, fellowship, finance, missions, outreach, administration, and building and grounds – often behind the scenes.

2011 ended with news of a major and exciting event that was the product of hard work in 2011 and will continue into 2012 – our pipe organ rebuilding. The Pipe Organ Committee, chaired by Peggy Fouts and resourced by Stan Hinton, did an outstanding job of researching possibilities and carefully evaluating options. The outcome of their process will give us a "like new" pipe organ that will continue to enhance worship in this place for years to come, all the while offering careful stewardship of what came before us. I'm going to thank you in advance for your patience as we experience the months without the pipes. How exciting to think that by this time next year, our new pipe organ will be among us.

You can also anticipate in 2012 a report from our Long Range Planning Team that I trust will have some major recommendations for the shape of our ministry going forward in the future. This team spent many hours together in 2011 studying, dreaming, and envisioning. We will soon begin the process of putting flesh on those dreams – or at least recommending how they might become embodied realities. I can't give you a specific date, but 2012 should prove noteworthy on this front. –*"Surely the Lord is in this Place"*–

One final and quick note about a new look in 2012: On January 1 you will see a new bulletin cover. Nancy Clayton has given us permission to use her painting of SPC on our bulletins, and I am delighted. It conveys such an open and welcoming attitude for being church. Now there's a great New Year's resolution. Let's us be open in 2012 – to those who visit us and join us, to those who need us, and to the Holy Spirit of God leading us in the direction God would have us go.

*For that and all of you I say, "Thanks be to God." ---Nancy*

### Welcome Visitors!

We warmly welcome you to this service of worship and congregation. We are glad you are here today and hope you will return often. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. We also extend an invitation to unite with this church.

Periodically, we offer a series of Inquirer's Classes that explore the meaning of church membership in our Presbyterian tradition. Those interested in membership are strongly encouraged to participate in these classes. Dates for the next series of classes are under consideration. If you are interested in conversation about membership do not hesitate to contact Pastor Nancy Morris or the church office any time.

## SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

### SESSION

Moderator: Nancy M. Morris  
Clerk of Session: Bob Norton

### **Administration**

Gary Owens, Moderator  
Bob Porter

### **Christian Education**

Brenda Thomson, Moderator

### **Finance**

Don Lesley, Moderator  
Bob White, Treasurer

### **Outreach Development**

Sally Owen, Moderator  
Barbara Norton

### **Worship**

Peggy Fouts, Moderator  
Kelly Holleman

### **Building & Grounds**

Chuck Kellner, Moderator

### **Fellowship**

Lynne Dee Barth, Moderator

### **Mission and Community Care**

Lucy Murr, Moderator

### **Stewardship**

Don Lesley, Moderator

### DEACONS

Ann Castle, Moderator  
Cindi Lesley, Secretary

Bonnie Andruszka, Barbara Barron,  
Susan Caldwell, Tom Carroll, Betty  
DuBose, Mike Harper, Judy Kellner,  
Tristan Krabbe, Carolyn Maddox,  
Larry Marett, Karen McBryde, Diana  
Owens, Debbie Simpson, Ann Smith,  
and Don Warmuth.

### **TRUSTEES**

Class of 2012  
Jerry Fouts

Class of 2013  
Lyn Norton

Class of 2014  
Jerry Crabtree

## We'd Love to Have You Join Us...



Seneca Presbyterian Church would like to extend an invitation to all who are interested in becoming members or who just want to learn more about our church. We will be hosting a series of gatherings on three consecutive Sundays – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> – between services. Each meeting will start at 10 a.m. in the Koinonia classroom. We will share some refreshments, learn about each other, hear more about life at SPC, ask questions, get invited to “sample” some opportunities, and make some new friends. Those who choose to join will be received as new members on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

These classes are not a hurdle to be jumped or a prerequisite for joining SPC. They are our newest effort at hospitality to those who are interested in learning more about us.

The welcome mat is out and the light is on. Please call the church office at 882-2505 if this sounds like something you would like to do.

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## Opportunities for Study

Two opportunities for study:

- The **Bible & Brown Bag Study Group** meets each Thursday at 12:00 noon in the Sara Davis Stribling classroom. They will resume their study of Matthew’s Gospel in January after completing The Journey Advent study. The conversation is being facilitated by Nancy Morris with the input of everyone. Bring your lunch with you if you wish. All are welcome.
- The **Wednesday Evening Adult Study Group** will continue to meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Men’s Bible classroom. A new study, starting January 4, 2012, will focus on “understanding how the 27 books that make up the New Testament came into being, who wrote them and why, and determining what they might have meant to the original readers”. The study will use a 24-lecture Great Courses DVD series entitled “The New Testament” by Professor Bart D. Ehrman. The group facilitator will be Gordon Lewis. All are welcome to attend and participate in the group.

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## Memorials

**Lois Smeaton** – Jerry & Beverly Crabtree, Rich Simington, Archie & Barbara Barron, Don & Doris Rieck, Gordon & Florence Cross, Kem & Lee Oelberg, Bob & Geri Bender, Ann Smith, Carolyn Maddox, Jack & Betty Kinback

**Doris McLellan** – Kem & Lee Oelberg

**Hessie Finley** – Betty Hall

**Carl Finley** – Betty Hall, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Pearson

**Winton Curtis** – Jewell Curtis



## Third Annual SPC Women's Retreat

"I Have Called you by Name" based on Isaiah 43

***The Rev. Julie Schaaf***

Our third annual retreat will again be held at Asbury Hills Retreat Center in Cleveland, SC on **February 24 and 25, 2012**. We will gather in the late afternoon on Friday and spend 24 hours together, then return home, refreshed and renewed, on Saturday afternoon. The cost is \$86, which includes overnight accommodations, including bedding and towels, and 3 meals - dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The price also includes an honorarium for our leader, Rev. Julie Schaaf, Foothills Communities Chaplain.



Please fill out the form below and return to the church with your check for \$86 made payable to **Seneca Presbyterian Church with "Women's retreat" on the memo line**. Registration is limited to 27 women, with preference to Seneca Presbyterian women. Registration will be opened to outside SPC if spaces are unfilled after February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please indicate which cabin you prefer. Batson is larger and closer to the Dining Hall. Creekside is smaller and a little bit farther to the Dining Hall. All rooms offer individual beds and a private bath. There is a single room available (in Creekside), 4 rooms that sleep 3 people, and the others are doubles. If you have roommate preferences, please also indicate that.

Contact Brenda Thomson at 864-723-9031 or [abthomson@charter.net](mailto:abthomson@charter.net) if you need additional information or have any questions.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge preference: Batson \_\_\_\_\_ Creekside \_\_\_\_\_

Room preference: Single \_\_\_\_\_ Double \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*The single room will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.  
Additional requests for single rooms may be accommodated if not  
all double rooms are filled.*

Interested in carpooling: Willing to drive \_\_\_\_\_ Want a ride \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Window into the Session for November & December

By Ed Krech

First let's take a wee step back in time. A bit less than six years ago, as a raw newbie Elder, I wrote the first-ever Window into the Session article for the Presby Press. Some of you may remember that the Session was looked upon by many as highly secretive – in fact that first article described us as ancient wizened gnomes lurking in a dark basement doing all sorts of secret stuff. Since then every Elder has taken a turn writing Window into the Session and I sincerely hope we are now looked upon as open and transparent. Yeah, okay, some of us may still be wizened gnomes but you don't have to mention that.

This month the Session combined the November and December meetings into one on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Plus it was one of the more important meetings of the year, for this was the evening when the new Elder and Deacon candidates described their Faith Journeys. The opening devotionals described the expectations of church officers. It is truly inspirational to hear the many paths that have been taken – and some very difficult hardships overcome – bringing our officers to true faith in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It was an honor and a pleasure to welcome the new Elders and Deacons of the class of 2014 who will be installed in January.

As always, the Session shared joys and concerns from among themselves and within the congregation and reviewed membership changes during the past month.

Performance evaluations have been done on all the SPC staff members during the past month and salary increases based on these were discussed and formally approved. This whole process has become very professional under the leadership of Gary Owens, Administrative Committee Moderator.

Christian Education moved that a second Sunday nursery worker be hired to assist Martha Taylor and this was approved.

Then, it was the turn of Finance Committee. December is wrestle-with-the-budget-for-the-next-year month. Fortunately Bob Norton and Bob White had done their homework well – plus we were only dealing with a six-month budget – so the discussion went smoothly and no blood was spilled. The budget was approved and all Elders are still on speaking terms.

The Session then gave final approval to the contract with A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company for the renewal of our pipe organ. The organ committee and Stan Hinton have done yeoman work leading to this contract. However, for the next year the empty space where our organ filled the air will have to be replaced by extra-loud voices from the congregation!

New committee moderators for next year were announced and Bob Norton was elected to serve as the new Clerk of Session. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Melissa Krabbe for her work as Clerk of Session for the past three years.

An Officer Retreat, with all Elders, Deacons, and the Long Range Planning Committee, is planned for the weekend of March 30-31.

A long meeting, but closed joyfully with prayer.

*Note: Because the Session now meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, "Window into the Session" will appear in the Presby Press one month later. You may pick up a copy of the "Window" one week after the meetings in the church office or view it on the website, [www.senecapresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.senecapresbyterianchurch.com).*

### Odyssey News

# Odyssey

**Game Day** continues to meet on the *second Friday of each month*. Come and join us on **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM**. We will meet in the *Forus Room*, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We play a variety of games. Popcorn and drinks are provided. If you have questions please call *Helen Lewis* at 654-7314.



Notes

Dear Church Family,

The families of Lois and I wish to thank you for the many visits, cards, flowers, hugs, handshakes and genuine love you gave to Lois during her recent illness. I too am so Blessed to have your on-going support following the loss of this wonderful Lady.

*Thank you and GOD Be With You, Al Smeaton*

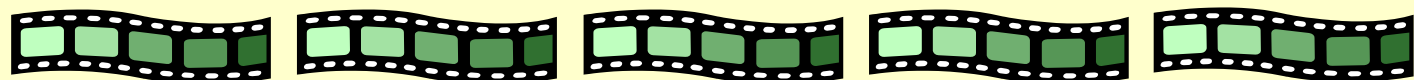
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The church office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

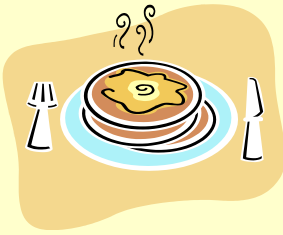
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## Thursday Night at the Movies

By executive decision, and in honor of an impending holiday, the Thursday Night at the Movies feature presentation for January 2012 will be Ground Hog Day. Even if you've seen it before, you can see it again – and again, and again! Come join the fun on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own supper and comfortable chair, if you wish. Popcorn and beverage provided.



**OUR NEW CARPET IN KNOHL HALL** is lovely. In order to keep it from fading, the Building & Grounds team had a company come in and install a film on all the windows and doors in Knohl Hall. This film will block most of the UV rays and help keep the carpet looking like new. **Due to the film on the windows and doors, we will not be able to put any tape on them.** Please be mindful of this when wanting to put up a poster or flyer to announce an event. If any tape is applied to these windows or doors, it could pull the film off.



# Community Pancake Breakfast



Put Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> on your new 2012 calendar!  
annual Community Free Pancake Breakfast, from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. Come MEET and GREET some of our neighbors over a yummy breakfast on a cold January morning. *Reservations are not required, but welcome!* Call the office at 882-2505.

That's the date for our

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## 2011 Christmas for DSS Children



I believe that you will be glad to know that Oconee Department of Social Services received a sponsor for all of the children in their care.

There will be huge SMILES on **52 Little Faces** because of the effort and generosity of folks at SPC. In addition, several members donated money to DSS to supplement other needs. We have been a reliable participant for DSS for many years.

If you were unable to join in this celebration in 2011, we will begin anew in October 2012. It has been a GREAT pleasure to work with all of you this joyous season.

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## January Birthdays

01-----	Andrew Clayton	12 -----	Garland Smith
02-----	Ben Brooks	14 -----	Gary Castle
04-----	Betty Krantz	17 -----	Jan Crismore
05-----	Beth Kloker	20 -----	Nan Arnold
05-----	Calvin Nixon	22 -----	Sam Holleman
06-----	Judy Porter	24 -----	Bob Caswell
07-----	Tim Gerner	24 -----	Joan Krech
08-----	Cokeleigh Long	25 -----	Jerry Land
08-----	Lee Oelberg	27 -----	LeRoy Drew
09-----	Bonnie Andruszka	27 -----	Glenn McCants
10-----	Melinda Arrington	29 -----	Geri Bender
10-----	Florence Geohle	29 -----	Ed Crerar
10-----	Al Smeaton	31 -----	Don Owen
11-----	Barney Allgood		

## January Anniversaries

04-----	Shelby & Bill Story	17-----	Jim & Diane Hardy
07-----	Dennis & Donna Beebe	26 -----	Wayne & Dorothy Jens
09-----	Barry & Deb Conway	30-----	Jack & Betty Kinback
15-----	Don & Nancy Clayton		

## January Circle Meetings

**CIRCLE ONE** – will meet on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in the Sara Davis Stribling Classroom. The Beatitudes in Matthew and Luke will be our study for 2011 – 2012. This study will focus on connecting our faith with our daily life. Please bring dish detergent for Helping Hands!!

**CIRCLE TWO** – will meet Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Sara Davis Stribling Classroom at 10:00 a.m. Circle Chairperson is Helen Lewis (654-7314).

**CIRCLE SIX** – will meet Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. here at the church, with Jane Day and Jane Thomas as hostesses. Karen Gomez will lead us through lesson 4 of our study of the Beatitudes. Please don't forget to bring peanut butter for the Golden Corner Food Pantry. All are welcome. For further information, please call Jane Thomas at 882-1202.

*\*Prospective members/guests are welcome at all three.*

Dear Seneca Presbyterian Church,

I am writing on behalf of Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund to thank you once again for your generous contributions to our cause. Your Matching Funds Campaign has had a significant impact on our fund, and we are so grateful. The generosity of your members is an inspiration to us all. God bless you for your giving spirit especially at this blessed time of year.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Robert French, President O.P.S.F.

## Flower Calendar

January 8<sup>th</sup> – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Helen Maish in loving memory of her husband, Bruce.

January 8<sup>th</sup> – The flowers in the narthex are given by the children of Al Smeaton in honor of their dad, and in celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Lots of love comes with this milestone of a birthday from his children and family members who are celebrating with him.

January 15<sup>th</sup> – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Ann Castle in honor of her husband, Gary's birthday.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Lyn Norton in loving memory of Emily Corley Holleman.



## 2012 Flower Calendar

The **2012** Flower Calendar is posted in front of the bulletin board across from the church office. If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary during 2012, please sign on the chosen date. Please remember, instead of fresh flowers you may make a donation to your favorite fund or charity.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPC FELLOWSHIP

To allow all of us a little “breather” after a glorious and busy Christmas Season, we will NOT have a Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner in January.



HOWEVER.....mark your 2012 calendars for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> when we will gather for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Following “fly off the plate” pancakes we will enjoy some Shrove Tuesday (alias Fat Tuesday) entertainment with an original skit by Margot Holmquist and her theatrical troubadours entitled **BY JOVE! IT’S SHROVE TUESDAY**. Join your church family for this delightful evening.

## Bible Chat

*This is one in a series of Bruce Woods' "Bible Chat" articles for the newsletters. This is Bruce's way of offering some of his knowledge, training (to be a lay pastor), and perspectives with the congregation and friends. We thank Bruce for his contributions. While the articles will be reviewed, please note the views and content are not necessarily those of the Session, pastor or this congregation. Feel free to contact Bruce for any comments or questions.*

A large part of Genesis is devoted to Joseph – his father Jacob, his brothers and the life in a foreign country {Egypt} he was forced into. After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers were afraid of what Joseph might do – given the terrible things they had done to him. Read Genesis 50: 15-21. They went to Joseph with a message from Jacob to ask him for forgiveness for what they had done. His reaction probably surprised them, "...am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."

One recurring question among believers is, "How can God be God if individuals are free to make their own choices?" It seems inconsistent that we can have free choices while also believing in a sovereign and holy God. If humans are free to make decisions, could they not also disrupt God's perfect plans? Certainly one plan of God since mankind chose sin instead of obedience to God in Eden is to redeem His creation. Sin is corrupting and destructive far beyond what we can imagine. It's far worse than any kind of ravaging disease we've ever witnessed. If unchecked it would destroy God's creation. If sin is unforgiven, every human would not only die a physical death but also be separated for eternity from God – with all the terrible implications that conveys. If we had no Redeemer, we would be judged strictly on our obedience to God's Laws which none of us have obeyed faithfully. Therefore, God really hates sin with all His being and will use His infinite power to overcome it.

But God is also sovereign and can use any evil act for good. God used the terrible sins of Joseph's brothers for a number of greater goods: Joseph learned about God's providence and learned to revere God, a pagan nation was spared from starvation [God's grace extends to all], Joseph's brothers learned of God, His grace and His forgiveness, God was glorified and this wonderful story has blessed countless peoples for many generations.

Sinners cannot undo their actions or prevent the natural consequences of sin from producing its usual miserable effects. But there are often occasions to thank a gracious God for counteracting and minimizing otherwise devastating effects of such evil. God can [as Romans 8:28-29 reminds us] and does work all things for good according to His purposes to be transformed into His Son's image. But yes, poison is still poison even though in the skilled physician's hands, it can sometimes be an appropriate medicine.

This text in Genesis claims that God need not worry that His purposes will be foiled by individual or societal actions. Nor will God have to limit the freedoms which both believers and unbelievers have to preserve His sovereignty. He is perfectly able to cope with these seemingly at odds truths about God and the humans He created. God is still God and humans are still responsible and blameworthy for all that they do.

That God permits brothers to do evil against Joseph or permits a sham-trial "lynching" of Jesus doesn't absolve those involved. Sins have consequences. But our infinite and holy God is always able to transform the results of those sins into His perfect plans and good.

*Next time we'll chat about what Jesus says in Matthew 5: 27-37.*

*-Bruce Woods-*



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 115 W. S. First Street  
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 Website: [senecapresbyterianchurch.com](http://senecapresbyterianchurch.com)

Office Hours:  
 Monday – Friday  
 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Congregation – Ministers

Dr. Nancy M. Morris	Pastor
Rev. Richard Caldwell	Parish Associate
Mr. Stan Hinton	Organist
Mrs. Emmalyn Frye	Choir Director
Mrs. Glenda Pitts	Secretary
Mrs. Toni Kelley	Part-Time Secretary
Mr. Jim Hylkema	Custodian
Mr. James Gaines	Custodian
Dr. Robert S. Dendy	Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Barbara Nagy	Missionary (serving in Malawi)

*“The Sunday Morning Place to Be”*

Join us for Sunday Morning  
 Contemporary Worship at 9:00 a.m.  
 Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m.

### Nursery Care

During All Sunday Morning Sunday School &  
 Worship Services

### Sunday School

**10:00 a.m.**

#### **Educational Building, Upper Level:**

Study of Genesis Group - Library  
 Sara Davis Stribling Class: Women  
 Men's Bible Class  
 Sunday School for Children

### January Scripture

Jan. 1: Isa. 61:10–62:3; Ps. 148;  
 Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Jan. 8: Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7;  
 Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 15: 1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20);  
 Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

Jan. 22: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12;  
 1Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 29: Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13;  
 Mark 1:21-28