

THE PRESBY PRESS



An Experience in Interfaith Understanding – Sometime in early June, an announcement in our weekly email update from Foothills Presbytery caught my attention. It concerned a conference entitled “Knowing Our Neighbors: A Purposeful Interfaith Encounter,” sponsored by the Lifelong Learning arm of Columbia Theological Seminary, an outstanding PC-USA institution in Decatur, GA. The subject intrigued me. And even though the date would take me away from Seneca barely a week after returning from our annual trip to the Highland Games, I thought it well worth the time. So did our Christian Education Committee. That’s why they encouraged me to bring someone else along. Karen McBryde, who serves on that committee, volunteered to do so.

As I write this, Karen and I are in Atlanta experiencing the conference. Plans for this day include dialogue with persons of other faiths. Before we leave Atlanta, we will have visited a mosque and a synagogue. It’s one of the reasons this conference intrigued me: we were going to encounter our neighbors of other faiths, not just talk about them.

By the time you read this, I will have had the opportunity to reflect on our experiences in worship. But our plans and hopes don’t stop there. The Christian Education Committee will seek ways to create similar opportunities at SPC for those who are interested in them. Why? Because we live in an increasingly multi-faith world where religion motivates people and events. It is no longer acceptable to live as citizens of the world based on limited or superficial understanding of what others believe and how that impacts how they live. But there are other reasons. First, we are called by God to welcome the neighbor in our midst, and persons of other faiths are our neighbors – both figuratively and tangibly. Can we find opportunity for direct dialogue, particularly with our Muslim and Jewish neighbors? But ultimately, interfaith dialogue deepens our own faith. It helps us to clarify what we believe and how that impacts how we live. When we observe the devotion of others, it can deepen our devotion to God.

Be watching for news of further developments. If you are interested in information about those developments or would like to be a part of creating them, don’t hesitate to say so.

Multiple Thanks – During this first year among you, I (and now Phil with me) have been deeply blessed with the opportunity to get to know you around the dining table. I cannot imagine this first year without those opportunities for fellowship and meeting. Let me publicly thank every host. They are Jack and Betty Arnold, Dick and Elaine Bushey, Kem and Lee Oelberg, Gary and Ann Castle, Tom and Jean Carroll, Archie and Barbara Barron, Don and Ann Warmuth, Cal and Jean Reinking, Don and Joan Erdman, Harry and Pat Hendershot, Jim and Margot Holmquist (twice!), John and Booty Catlin, Don and Nancy Clayton, Don and Cindi Lesley, Ralph and Lynne Dee Barth, Wayne and Donna Montague, and Alan and Brenda Thomson. If I have forgotten anyone, please remind me and I will make amends. Thank you for great food and fellowship. And thank you to every guest for lending your voices and presence to the conversation. Special thanks go to Barbara Norton, the organizer behind the scenes, who made all this possible.

Another Bit of Vacation – Phil and I will be traveling to Ohio in early August to see our son Ben in two plays. As a theater major, he is thrilled this summer to be a member of the ensemble cast for *Trumpet in the Land*, an outdoor drama in New Philadelphia, Ohio. In addition to the primary production, they are producing *Happy Days: the Musical*. In two nights, we will be able to see both shows. It will take us away on Sunday, August 7th, when you will have the privilege of hearing Melissa Krabbe, a vital member of SPC and a candidate for ministry of Foothills Presbytery. Richard Caldwell will be presiding for the service of Holy Communion at both services. You will be blessed!

Blessings to all of you --- Nancy

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome you to our congregation. You are invited to join us for any and all of the activities you read about in these pages. 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. In the meantime, if you are interested in conversation about membership do not hesitate to contact Pastor Nancy Morris or the church office.

SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Moderator: Nancy M. Morris

Clerk of Session: Melissa Krabbe

Administration

Gary Owens, Moderator

Christian Education

Ed Krech, Moderator

Finance

Bob Norton, Moderator

Don Lesley

Bob White

Outreach Development

Sally Owen, Moderator

Worship

Peggy Fouts, Moderator

Kelly Holleman

Sam Holleman

Building & Grounds

Bob Norton, Moderator

Fellowship

Mission and Community Care

Booty Catlin, Moderator

Ed Krech

Stewardship

Don Lesley, Moderator

Rob Krabbe

DEACONS

Ann Castle, Moderator

Cindi Lesley, Secretary

Barbara Barron, Tom Carroll, Betty DuBose, Mike Harper, Chris Hudgins, Judy Kellner, Tristan Krabbe, Joan Krech, Carolyn Maddox, Larry Marett, Diana Owens, Joan Riley, Ann Smith, and Don Warmuth.

TRUSTEES

Class of 2011

Jerry Crabtree

Class of 2012

Jerry Fouts

Class of 2013

Lyn Norton



Ann Smith is our Senior Superlative

Ann Smith will be Seneca Presbyterian's honoree at Foothill Presbytery's annual **Senior Superlative Luncheon on August 18th**, joining honorees from other churches in our Presbytery. Nominees are "outstanding older adults" who have exercised their faith in church and community in significant ways. Congratulations Ann and thank you for all your service to our church.

Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund

An unusual OPSF story—and a warm one. Several weeks ago on a Thursday morning with the usual group of people at OPSF seeking help mostly for rent, food, and utility bills, a young man whom I'll call Henry, came in to tell us very excitedly how he had found his father! Henry had been telling a friend he met in Mountain Rest how he wished he knew where his father was. Seems father had left the family when Henry was two and now 18 years later Henry was eager to find that most important person he had been missing in his life. His friend got onto Face Book and lo and behold! They found him currently living in New York City. Henry called his father to confirm the information, and together they made plans for Henry to come and live with him. His friend "on the mountain" as Henry said, told him about Our Daily Rest who might help him get to New York. ODR indeed pledged half of a \$113 bus ticket and sent him to OPSF hoping we would give him the other half. And we did. He was to stay at ODR until bus time on July 13th. He said his father was to meet him at the bus station in NYC—thankfully! The spirit and thanks he gave to everyone was truly exciting.

Wish we could know the outcome.

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 are studying Matthew's Gospel. 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** meets each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Men's Bible classroom. Don Warmuth is the facilitator. This study covers the Old Testament using DVDs and discussion. These lectures by scripture expert Professor Amy-Jill Levine introduce you to the history, religion, and literature of ancient Israel as preserved in the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible. Professor Levine brings biblical characters and passages to life and vividly reveals the magnificent artistry suffusing the Old Testament. All are welcome to attend.

News from Vacation Bible School



As this newsletter is printing, "Shake It Up" is winding down its week of great fun and Bible study! All the participants are having a super time – and the sound of children and laughter in the church halls is invigorating!!!!

This article is to extend much appreciation to all the staff who made sure the week went smoothly: Opening/Closing Assembly – Bea Hamilton, Noah Montague, and Sally Owen; Teachers – Becky Drew, Judy Kellner, Cindi Lesley, Jill Marett, Karen McBryde, and Brenda Thomson; Music – Kathy Gerner, Melissa Krabbe, and Tristan Krabbe; Crafts – Lynne Dee Barth, Florence Goehle, Pat Hendershot, and Alicia Rannou; Recreation – Emily Holleman, Louis Holleman, and Sam Holleman; Snacks – Carolyn Maddox; Advisor and DVD slide show – Nancy Morris.

This was a great staff, working well together, and having a great time doing it! Thank you to all who made this such a terrific, successful Vacation Bible School!!!!

Check out next month's newsletter for exciting blurbs about the events throughout the week!

Memorials

Jean Barron: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hanahan, Jr.

Dick Bringardner: Tom & Shirlee Stubbs, Ann Smith, Jack & Betty Kinback, Ruth Davidson, Lee & Pat Trame, and Kem & Lee Oelberg

Jeanne Dost: Ann Smith, Betty DuBose, Jack & Betty Kinback, Sue Pratt, Gary & Judy Anderson, Jerry & Emily Land, Garland & Margaret Smith, Robert Moffat, Ruth Davidson, Pat Senn, Kem & Lee Oelberg, Brian Booth, Robert & Nancy Dendy, Ken & Lou Schuman, Harold & Charlene Bell, Archie & Barbara Barron, and Janey Turner.

Wally Dost: Ken & Lou Schuman

Betty Geist: Aline Williams and Robert & Nancy Dendy

Amy Lou Rowe: Jerry & Dessalee Albright, Bicycling Friends of Drew Morrison-Rowe, William & Arlene Joselyn, David & Kathleen Moore, and Ann Smith

Evelyn Wallace: Robert & Nancy Dendy

Ferber Whitmire: Robert & Nancy Dendy

**Wanted: 2012 Calendars, box tops and Campbell's UPC's.
Please leave in the library.**

August Birthdays

02-----	Jay McLellan	18 -----	Judy White
05-----	Sue Masters	19 -----	Barbara Barron
07-----	Cynthia Ruckle	19 -----	Jan Williams
08-----	Esther McNees	21 -----	Kevin Murr
12-----	Barbara Williams	22 -----	Nancy Kroske
13-----	Booty Catlin	23 -----	Eleanor Richardson
14-----	Ann Castle	24 -----	Dick Bushey
15-----	Bruce Woods	24 -----	Sally Caswell
16-----	Carol Bisceglia	24 -----	Flo Sheron
16-----	Harriett Millies	27 -----	Nancy Clayton
17-----	Leah Yeager	27 -----	Norma Liebenberg
18-----	Melinda Harper	29 -----	Nancy Miller



August Anniversaries

02-----	Russ & Helen Kelly	20-----	Bill & Deddy Wesley
05-----	Tom & Gensie Waldrop	22-----	Bob & Barbara Norton
06-----	Larry & Jill Marett	23-----	Jerry & Peggy Fouts
10-----	Gary & Ann Castle	23-----	Harry & Pat Hill
10-----	Bruce & Lyn Norton	23-----	Noel & Betty Lehner
10-----	Jim & Elaine Williams	23-----	Kem & Lee Oelberg
11-----	Bob & Linda Porter	23-----	Alan & Brenda Thomson
13-----	Bob & Pat Dressel	28-----	William Crommett & Lois Ardelean
14-----	Paul & Lesley LaRoche	28-----	Knox & Pat Williams
17-----	Rodger & Diana Low	30-----	Lowell & Priscilla Byars
19-----	Jack & Betty Arnold	31-----	Bob & Nancy Buse
19-----	Wayne & Donna Montague	31-----	William & Cynthia Ruckle
20-----	Mike & Belinda Harper		

Congratulations Seneca Presbyterian Church Volunteers!!!!

A letter was received recently from the South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration and the South Carolina Governor's office, informing us that "Volunteers of Seneca Presbyterian Church" were nominated in the Volunteer Group category for the 2011 South Carolina Governor's Volunteer Awards. Sandra Pruitt, of United Way's Family Friends, nominated our church.

There were 81 nominations in eight categories. We came in 2nd in our category, and were recognized for "exceptional service", noting that the nomination was "well-deserved." Please read the letter posted on the board across from the church office.

Again, congratulations to EVERYONE in the church who has donated precious time and energy in your individual volunteer efforts!!!!

Thursday Night at the Movies

Everyone is invited to join our monthly gathering for movie viewing, discussion, and fellowship. We meet on the fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Pastors' Hall. Bring a comfortable chair and your own supper. Popcorn and beverage provided!

As of press time, the group has not decided on the feature presentation for August (August 25th). Watch the bulletin for details. You may want to put the September gathering on your calendar now. On September 22nd, we will be joined by friends from Ebenezer Baptist as we watch together *A Time to Kill*. The dialogue should be both inviting and enlightening. More details to follow.

Celebration of Friendship Dinner and Apron Auction



Plan on joining your church family and friends in Pastors' Hall on **November 10, 2011** for an evening of fun, laughter, and lively bidding. Baskets filled with goodies such as Tervis glasses or wine or gardening tools or placemats will be auctioned along with special handmade aprons. Invite a neighbor, a friend or family members to join us. ALL proceeds from the evening will go to a local charity. Reservations will be required for this event. Contact an Outreach Committee member for more information.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

August 17th at 5:45 p.m.

Please join us for our "Tailgating Party" in Pastors' Hall. Bring a covered dish perfect for tailgating, wear your school colors and insignias and add your personal photos, annuals and mementoes to our display tables for all to enjoy.

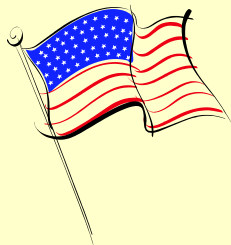
Most important... bring some basic school supplies of your choice to be given to students in need in our community.

"TAILGATING" – Wednesday, August 17th at 5:45 p.m.



Name _____ # Attending _____

Odyssey News



On Sunday, July 3rd our Second Annual 4th of July Picnic was held on the church grounds. Nearly 100 guests attended, not counting a hive of angry bees! We had a wonderful time in spite of the heat. Food was provided by the Fellowship Committee. We were able to use our new picnic tables in the gazebo with other tables scattered around the grounds. Odyssey took over setting up, cleaning up, and decorations. It was red, white and blue all over! Thanks to ALL the workers that day, we couldn't have done it without you. See you next year! ---Lin Akroyd

Odyssey Game Day meets on the second Friday of each month. Come and join us on Friday, August 12th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will meet in the Forus Room, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We play a variety of games, including Bridge, Scrabble and Dominoes. Popcorn and drinks are provided. If you have questions, please call Helen Lewis at 654-7314.

Flower Calendar

August 14th – In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund has been given in memory of E. Keith Parrott by Holly, Sean and Josh Parrott.

August 21st – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Archie & Barbara Barron.

August 28th – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Bruce & Lyn Norton to the Glory of God.



Children's Sunday School Changing

Children's Sunday School, which now meets at 9:00 a.m. (same as the Contemporary Worship Service), will take a break for the month of August and Labor Day weekend. When it resumes on September 11th, it will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m., the same time as adult Sunday School! This will give families the option of worshipping together either at the 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service or 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service and still be able to go to Sunday School.

We are looking for 6 adults (individuals or couples) willing to make a commitment to teach during the coming year on a rotating basis - you can set your own schedule as it works out best for you. The curriculum is easy to use with minimal preparation and works well with a multi-age level class. If you feel called to make this commitment and to share God's love with the children of this congregation, call Brenda Thomson, 723-9031.

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.

After the Last Supper, Jesus has led the disciples out of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. Near the Mount of Olives was an orchard named Gethsemane {'oil press'}. Jesus may have chosen to go there to be away from the throng of people near the Mount of Olives.

At Gethsemane, Jesus asks Peter, James & John to continue inside to be with Him. These three had also been with Him at the Mount of Transfiguration and with Him to witness the raising of Jarius' daughter from the dead. They were Jesus' closest friends. The other eight disciples were asked to watch and wait behind – perhaps at the entrance.

Jesus related to the three disciples that He was “deeply sorrowful, even unto death”. He told them of His anxiety and fear. He asked them to watch, wait and pray with Him. We don't know all that Jesus prayed for that night but the first recorded petition was His asking, “My father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” After His first prayer, He came back to see the three disciples asleep. Jesus awoke them and asked them, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” Jesus exhorted them to “watch and pray lest they be led into temptation” and admitted to them that “His spirit was willing but His flesh was weak”.

Jesus first petition was answered; He would have to take the cup. When Jesus returned to be in prayer the next recorded petition is “If it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” Jesus had heard His father's answer and now prayed for the obedience to carry out His father's will. He returned in prayer and prayed the same petition as before for obedience to His Father's will. After Jesus' third prayer, He came and told His disciples, “The hour was near...here comes my betrayer.”

If you were facing life-threatening surgery, wouldn't you want your closest friends to be there? That night Jesus was in a far worse situation. He knew He was going to be tortured and cruelly killed. He had not sinned or broken any laws but He was about to be punished by what was in the cup - the terrible wrath of God for all the sins and evil that had ever been committed or ever will be committed.

We must not forget that Jesus was fully human. What would be going through our minds if we were about to be arrested, tortured, tried, convicted and sentenced to death for something we had nothing to do with? The anxiety, fear and pressure was so much that during His anguished prayers, some blood vessels burst mixing blood with His cold sweat on that chilly night. And, as He prayed, Satan was there tempting Jesus to become the triumphant King of Israel and the destroyer of Rome – which Jesus could have done. As a human He feared the terrible physical agony to come. But, as the Son of God, there was an even larger fear - death. No, not the kind of painless, antiseptic death we call “Rest in Peace”. What Jesus feared was the real death, hell, being separated from God - which He knew was also coming.

Next we'll chat about Jesus Knocking at the Door [Rev 3: 7-8, 20-21].

-Bruce Woods-



Seneca Presbyterian Church

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Email: senecachurch@bellsouth.net

Website: 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. Lane Neamand	Friday 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

9:00 a.m. - Downstairs

Nursery – 5th grade

10:00 a.m.

Educational Building, Upper Level:

Study of Genesis Group - Library

Sara Davis Stribling Class: Women

Men’s Bible Class

August Scripture

Aug. 7: Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22,
45b; Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

Aug. 14: Gen. 45:1-15; Ps. 133; Rom. 11:1-2a,
29-32; Matt. 15: (10-20) 21-28

Aug. 21: Exod. 1:8-2:10; Ps. 124; Rom. 12:1-8;
Matt. 16:13-20

Aug. 28: Exod. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c;
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28