

THE PRESBY PRESS



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR –

After watching the scrolling list of cancellations that appeared on our television screens when snow fell in Oconee County on December 26th, one among us made an astute observation. She noticed that church after church cancelled their worship services while the malls declared that they would be open for business as usual. Odd, isn't it? Not that long ago it would have been unheard of for a store to be open on any Sunday. Yet this time, the stores were open and the churches were closed. Don't misunderstand me. I know churches were concerned about the safety of their members. Yet it is a sign of our times.

We live in what has been called a Post-Christendom age. Where once Church stood at the center of life in our communities, it is now on the periphery. Church attendance is no longer an expectation. While we may feel the impact a bit less in the "Bible belt," it's still true. Many need a strong motivation along with an intentional invitation to become part of a church family. Let's face it: we have to work a bit harder these days to be faithful to our call. Yet we have so much to offer – most especially the welcoming and healing grace of our loving God.

Your Session will be putting in some extra hours shortly in order to help us stay faithful to our call. We will be in retreat at Asbury Hills on February 4th and 5th. Keep us in your prayers. We will be looking at the big picture of life at SPC, seeking ways to deepen our discipleship, build our community, and invite others to join with us. Seneca Presbyterian is a welcoming and generous family with an open heart and open mind. Are we doing our best to invite others into this blessed place? Are we caring for each other to the absolute best of our ability? Are we doing all we can for those in need around us, using our gifts of people and resources that are signs of blessings from God? And more specifically, what immediate plans can we envision to strengthen our ministries and move forward in our call?

If there is anything you would like your Session to know or any concern you would like to share, please do not hesitate to mention it to me or any one of them. Their names are printed in every Presby Press.

A Rough Start to the New Year – It's been an unusual January in Seneca! While some have accused me of bringing Virginia weather to South Carolina, I take no credit or blame for a record snow fall. But I did learn much about how my new neighbors cope with snow. Thank you for your patience with us as the church office was closed more than we would wish. Please remember: even when the office is closed, you may call me with news about your lives – especially concerns related to health. I am always only a cell phone call away: 864-784-2818.

Status Update – Getting Phil to Seneca – Now that the holidays are passed, we are working diligently on getting husband Phil to Seneca so that he can get to know you and experience your gracious welcome. As of this writing, we have learned that Sears in Anderson has no immediate openings, but prospects look good for a position at the Greenville store. It would mean a longer commute, but we are grateful for any opportunity. We will let you know when it's official.

Closing policy – at their January meeting, the Session will officially approve a procedure for deciding about worship in the case of snow and communicating those decisions to you. We have secured the necessary codes to post any closing information (not just for Sundays) on WYFF – so you should tune to that station for updates on our status. Let's hope we never have to use them!

Blessings to all of you --- 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. The Session is available to meet on any Sunday immediately following worship to receive new members. Please do not hesitate to let us know of your interest.

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
Dick Kassler, Moderator

Fellowship
Anna Kennedy, Moderator

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

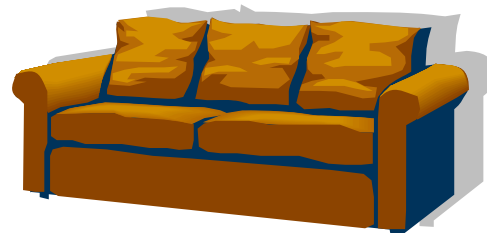
Class of 2013
Lyn Norton

Welcome To Our Newest Member

Howard DeWolf by transfer of membership from Eastminster Presbyterian, East Lansing, Michigan. Howard is a resident at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation. Please welcome him with cards addressed to 140 Tokeena Rd., Rm. 119A, Hall B, Seneca, SC 29678.

Chapter House Parlor

Do you have some furniture we can use in the soon to be renovated Chapter House "Parlor"? The former storage room is in the process of being renovated by the Building & Ground's Team. Upon completion (hopefully in a couple of months), we will need furniture to fill it. A design plan is being drawn up. If you have some furniture such as a large table and chairs, couch, love seat, end tables, lamps, pictures or such, that you would like to donate to this project, call Dick Kassler (888-0793) to see if it could be used in this new area.



The purpose of the Parlor Area is to have an area of the church that small groups such as Presbyterian Women, study groups, committees, etc. could meet in a more relaxed lounge type atmosphere. While we let outside groups use the Chapter House, it is intended that this room would be reserved for church member groups. We hope to hold an open house as soon as the parlor is completed.

Thursday Night at the Movies

Join us on Thursday, February 24th for an opportunity to explore faith and film. Please see the Sunday bulletins for the film title.

Join us in Pastors' Hall at 6:30 p.m. Bring your supper and a comfortable chair, if you wish. Popcorn is provided.

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. You may e-mail Nancy for an update (nmorrisspc@bellsouth.net) but sign-ups are not necessary. Just come and bring your friends.
- The **Wednesday Evening Adult Study Group** meets each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Men's Bible classroom. Don Warmuth is facilitating a study of the book *What's So Amazing about Grace?* by Philip Yancey.

Financial Update

The report below presents the preliminary results of operations for Seneca Presbyterian Church for the 2010 calendar year and the 2011 budget adopted and approved by your Session. You will note that we fell short of our projected income for the year. It is important to note that the church received \$22,100 in 2010 contributions at the end of 2009 and that income was recognized in 2009. While our income statement indicates that we lost almost \$25,000 for the year, that gap narrows to a loss of approximately \$3,000 when accounting for 2010 contributions received in 2009. Our committees were not able to do as much as they had planned due to our income shortfall, but they did a great job of controlling expenses to lessen the negative impact on the overall budget.

The 2011 budget was developed over a number of months and was approved by the Session on January 3, 2011. It represents wise stewardship of your gifts to this congregation and its ministries as we move forward into 2011. The Session thanks you for your generosity and continued partnership in service to God through our community of faith. If you have any questions on this information, please contact Bob White, SPC Treasurer, at white.robert.r@gmail.com or 886-9501.

SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2010 ACTUALS & 2011 BUDGET

	<u>2010 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · Budgeted Income				
Total 44010 · Contributions	351,813.08	392,927.00	-41,113.92	374,366.00
Total 44055 · Other Operating Income	9,280.13	9,618.00	-337.87	9,750.00
Total 44000 · Budgeted Income	361,093.21	402,545.00	-41,451.79	384,116.00
Total 44753 · Investment Income				21,873.00
Total 44371 · Investment Income				21,873.00
Total Income	361,093.21	402,545.00	-41,451.79	405,989.00
Expense				
75000 · Operating Expenses				
Total 75025 · Administration	206,484.53	207,430.00	-945.47	217,390.00
Total 75510 · Pastor Nominating Committee	9,781.48	15,000.00	-5,218.52	0.00
Total 75600 · Buildings & Grounds	79,070.70	79,625.00	-554.30	76,500.00
Total 75800 · Finance	497.39	350.00	147.39	350.00
Total 75840 · Stewardship	312.02	1,800.00	-1,487.98	1,500.00
Total 76100 · Christian Education	6,343.11	11,400.00	-5,056.89	11,227.00
Total 76200 · Fellowship	7,755.39	4,620.00	3,135.39	4,525.00
Total 76300 · Worship	8,473.26	11,945.00	-3,471.74	9,950.00
Total 76710 · Outreach Development	4,365.70	5,750.00	-1,384.30	5,950.00
Total 76800 · Budgeted Benevolences	62,894.43	63,600.00	-705.57	78,146.00
Total 76900 · Deacons	99.70	1,025.00	-925.30	450.00
Total 75000 · Operating Expenses	386,077.71	402,545.00	-16,467.29	405,988.00
Net Ordinary Income	-24,984.50	0.00	-24,984.50	1.00

Pancake Breakfast – February 26th



We invite you to come and help us welcome the community to Seneca Presbyterian Church's free pancake breakfast on February 26th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Police and firemen and local residents are invited to attend. Come help us share our joyfulness and God's love. Reservations are not necessary, but are helpful. Please e-mail or call the church office at 882-2505 with the number in your family that will attend.

Congratulations Gophers!

The Seneca Presbyterian "Gophers" were busy again last year. We answered 38 calls for transportation assistance, and drove 1,569 miles! Since May 23, 1996, the "Gophers" have answered 1,646 calls and covered 73,940 miles! Whew!!!!!! Many thanks to those that drove in 2010: Jim and Phyl May, Bob Dressel, Bob and Linda Porter, Lee Oelberg, Bill Miller, Gene Goodwyn (a former SPC member), and Ann Smith. This group is always looking for new faces – if you would like to help out in transporting people in need to doctors' appointments, church members or community-wide, please contact Ann Smith 647-2088.

Dr. Barbara Nagy, Our Missionary in Malawi

In December, we were able to send \$300 to buy latex gloves for the Hospital in Nkoma, Malawi. Perhaps some who attended the fellowship dinner when Dr. Nagy visited in June will remember her telling of using only one glove when attending AIDS patients. It is one way to save on supplies, but possibly dangerous for the caregivers. Several asked for Mission & Community Care to help if we were able. She was able to buy 53 boxes or over 5,000 gloves. She e-mailed immediate thanks, and said she wore some in the congregation's honor the day they arrived. Thanks to Seneca Presbyterian Church for being a caring church.

Family Night Dinner



Our February Family Night Dinner will be on Wednesday, February 16th at 5:30 p.m. for Potluck Dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed with a program on Camp Buc.

Camp Buc is no longer just summer camp for children. Come to dinner and hear the newest developments. Glenn McCants, who works at the Presbytery level, will update us on the new programs and facilities at your Presbyterian Camp.

Please register for dinner so we know how many tables to set. Think "camp food" and bring your favorite dish to share (if we are lucky maybe everyone will bring S'Mores!)

Name _____ # Attending _____

December Window into the Session

By: Booty Catlin

Session started early with a large group of present elders, elders about to rotate off, and both elders and deacons-elect. And with the lighting of the Christ Candle, a few moments of silence and expectation. Devotions and prayer followed with a few thoughts about the Babe who became our Redeemer.

Introductions around the room with short statements of which class we were presently in, which would be taking a rest, and which would be ordained and or installed on January 9th at 11:00 a.m.

It is always a lovely experience hearing the faith journeys of the officers-elect, but this was surely a group of lovely Christians who came from different roots and denominations who found "home" to be Seneca Presbyterian Church. A common theme is that all want to help SPC to be even better. They have gifts to share with us all, and we were privileged to accept them.

Joys and concerns, as always, keep us aware of those who need prayer, and sharing spirit-lifters breathe new life into each heart listening to each joy.

Committee reports and business took up the balance of the meeting, with some officers-elect staying to listen in and offer suggestions. They could not vote until installed. It is helpful for them to be aboard by the January Session meeting.

Dr Morris closed the meeting in prayer

Note: Because the Session now meets on the 4th 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.

Tax Reminder

A provision in the tax bill recently passed by Congress reinstates the ability of those age 70½ years and older to make distributions of up to \$100,000 per tax year from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) directly to a charity of their choice without having to claim it as income.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you is a small and inadequate phrase to express the gratitude we feel for all that you have done these past few months. The cards, calls, e-mails and visits have meant so much to us. But most of all, we are grateful for your prayers. They have sustained and strengthened us from the first scary diagnosis through the surgery and chemotherapy, and will continue to do so through whatever comes next. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring and wonderful family.

Fondly --- Brenda and Alan Thomson

Presbyterian Women's Annual Lenten Book Study

Our Annual Lenten Book Study series will begin on Tuesday, March 15th, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the church library. We will meet weekly on Tuesdays through April 19th. The book this year is Timothy Keller's "The Prodigal God". From the books cover: "Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable, Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and the skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way." We will have books available so you can read the first chapter before March 15th. There will be a sign up sheet on the table across from the church office. Please sign up by March 4th. Ann Warmuth will be the facilitator.

February Circle Meetings

CIRCLE ONE

Date: Monday, February 7th, in the Sara Davis Stribling Classroom at 2:45 p.m. Circle Chair: Ann Smith: (647-2088). Please bring sugar for Collins Home and Family Ministries.

CIRCLE TWO

Date: Tuesday, February 1st, in the Sara Davis Stribling Class Room at 10:00 a.m. Circle co-chairs are Helen Lewis (654-7314) and Flo Sheron (882-2280).

CIRCLE SIX

Date: Tuesday, February 1st, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Lin Akroyd in Keowee Key. Lin suggests that we meet at 6:45 p.m. in the Wachovia parking lot near Keowee Key, from there we will carpool on to her home. Ann Warmuth will lead us in the study of Lesson 4. All are welcome. Any questions, call Jane Thomas (882-1202).

Committee Meetings

- ✚ **Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on Tuesday, February 8th, at 10:00 a.m.
- ✚ **Deacons** will meet on Monday, February 7th, at 5:00 p.m.
- ✚ **Finance Committee** will meet on Monday, February 21st, at 4:00 p.m.
- ✚ **Knitting Bee** will meet on Friday, February 11th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapter House; bring a sandwich.
- ✚ **Odyssey Steering Committee** will meet on Tuesday, February 8th, at 4:00 p.m.
- ✚ **Presbyterian Women's Council** will meet on Tuesday, February 8th, at 2:00 p.m.
- ✚ **Session** will meet on Monday, February 28th, at 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ **Stewardship Committee** will meet on Monday, February 21st at 4:30 p.m.
- ✚ **Worship Committee** will meet on Monday, February 14th at 4:30 p.m.

February Birthdays

01-----	Alan Thomson	15-----	Richard Hudgins
03-----	Bob Akroyd	17-----	John Merritt
05-----	Priscilla Byars	18-----	Jim Hardy
05-----	Don Warmuth	19-----	Larry Josey
06-----	Jim Holmquist	20-----	Lee Goodson
06-----	Elizabeth Waring Long	20-----	Kem Oelberg
06-----	Margaret Smith	21-----	Becka Letson
07-----	Lowell Byars	21-----	Bruce Malcolm
07-----	Dick Kassler	24-----	Doris Rieck
09-----	Jean Carroll	26-----	Trey McCants
09-----	Nancy Dougherty	27-----	Jack Arnold
09-----	Carol Smith	27-----	Bill Brinson
10-----	Parker Stewart	28-----	Dorothy Jens
11-----	Joan Lacy	28-----	Marjorie LaMarque
13-----	Patrick Branson		

February Anniversaries

01 -----	Garland & Margaret Smith	14 -----	Bob & Judy White
04 -----	Biff & Anna Kennedy	16 -----	Larry & Ann Josey
08 -----	Raymond & Jan Williams	17 -----	Leroy & Becky Drew
14 -----	George & Rose Hart		

Memorials

Evangeline Caswell: Don & Arden Stephenson

Hessie Finley: James & Sally Barker; Reggie & Frances Ramsey; Henry & Virginia Denruyter; Barbara & Kenneth Briscoe; Charles & Sandy Wiseman; Patricia Senn; Boyer & Louise Royal; and Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Pearson

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of
Evangeline Caswell *who died on January 16th.*

Flower Calendar

February 6 – Communion

February 13 – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Ruth Davidson in memory of her husband, John.

February 20 – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Biff & Anna Kennedy in honor of our church family whom we love so much.

February 27 – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Lyn Norton to the Glory of God.

Odyssey News

Odyssey Game Day – Odyssey Game Day continues to meet on the second Friday of each month. Come and join us on Friday, February 11th, 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. Popcorn and drinks are provided. If you have questions please call Helen Lewis at 654-7314.

Anderson Art Center – Check your schedule to see if you can join Odyssey on Thursday, February 17th to carpool to Anderson to the Anderson Art Center to view a wonderful juried art show of varied mediums. We'll go to lunch afterward at one of the great restaurants in the downtown area. Sign up at the Odyssey bulletin board. No charge at the art museum but donations are welcomed. Only other charge will be your lunch. We'll gather at the church around 9:45 on the 17th.

Parents' Night Out

February 11th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.



Parents' Night Out is the second Friday of each month from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. We are looking for more volunteers. It only amounts to four hours out of one day, once a month. Please consider offering your time and talents to this very important mission that our church has chosen to provide for the community. For more information, contact the church office.



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.

'And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, "The old is good"' (Luke 5:39). Jesus' comment has little to do with wine tasting. But what is being said here? Is the *old* really better than the new? Is Jesus confirming that the old is better than the new?

Let's look at the statement in a broader context. In both Luke and Mark (2:22) Jesus compares His message of the Kingdom of God to new wine which, because of its residual effervescence, cannot be successfully contained in old wineskins which have lost their elasticity. The new wine will cause the old wineskins to burst. The 'old wineskins' is a direct reference to what had happened to the Jewish faith over the centuries per layers of rules & practices that had been added to God's Ten Commandments & the Temple rites. Much of the added "stuff" had nothing to do with God's revelations or being obedient to God and often made it more difficult for people to get closer to God.

In this context, Jesus is not endorsing the old wine. He is making an accurate observation about human behavior. People do tend to stick with the familiar. People tend to repeat prior behavior and actions because they require less thought and because they won't be putting themselves into the uncomfortable position of challenging authority. People often are satisfied with the familiar despite its being potentially less satisfying or useful.

Church people often tend to like 'old-time' hymns, familiar translations of the Bible and standard 'high worship; forms & practices. And, as long as those traditions are not encumbered with irrelevant extras or act as barriers to younger or newer Christians, they're just fine. But, sometimes this older 'wine skin' may be too brittle or too fragile to contain all that Jesus, His Gospel and the leading of the Holy Spirit may offer. If we're not careful, the very exercise of our faith may inhibit our growth and welfare of the church. On the other hand, recall that Jesus also told us that 'He came here not to destroy the Law but to fulfill it'. That ought to be a reminder to us that long as we don't allow our 'wine skins' to get too old or too rigid, we need not throw out all the old practices, Bible translations, worship forms, music, etc. IF they are still flexible enough to contain the still bubbling, still new, still refreshing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Job's friends were like some dogmatic religious conservatives who rigidly resisted change. Job is challenged by the elderly Eliphaz the Temanite to the effect that just being elderly and experienced makes him correct. {Job 15:9-10} No, being elderly and experienced doesn't equate to being correct. Being right is using the Word of God to learn from Him and know that His ultimate revelation to us is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In our Christian life and in the church of Jesus Christ, there is good old wine and there is good new wine. But to insist that 'old is better' inhibits the progress and vitality of the church. Let's keep our wine skins flexible so they can be fully filled with His Gospel!

In Romans 8:28 Paul makes a statement that seems to be at odds with reality – next time!

--- Bruce Woods



Seneca Presbyterian Church
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 Seneca, S.C. 29678

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 Email: senecachurch@bellsouth.net

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

Congregation – Ministers

Dr. Nancy M. Morris	Pastor
Mr. Stan Hinton	Organist
Mrs. Emmalyn Frye	Choir Director
Mrs. Glenda Pitts	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

February Scripture

Feb. 6: Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12); Ps. 112:1-9 (10);
 1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

Feb. 13: Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 119:1-8;
 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

Feb. 20: Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; Ps. 119:33-40;
 1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48

Feb. 27: Isa. 49:8-16a; Ps. 131; 1 Cor. 4:1-5;
 Matt. 6:24-34