

THE PRESBY PRESS



Some thoughts on Long-Range Planning –

In June of 2010, the Session created a Long-Range Planning Team with three eager members. Those three patient souls graciously waited while I got to know you and learned more about Seneca. This past April, the Session added four persons to the team, and we began to meet in May.

As the name implies, long-range planning involves stepping back, taking time, and looking at the big picture. It means casting visions and setting priorities. It means looking first at what the Church is called to be and then seeking God's guidance for what our church is called to be and do for the Kingdom of God in our corner of the world. It also means affirming what has come before. We know we are building on a strong foundation that was crafted by the faithful saints who have come before us. But we won't always be star-gazers and dreamers. The process will get practical as we look at ministry priorities for the next 3-5 years, set goals, and discern strategies for meeting those goals.

This team works in tandem with the Session and will be in faithful communication with that primary governing body. Ultimately, the report of the Long-Range Planning Team will go to the Session for final approval and implementation. We have no specific target date for completion of our work – which is a blessing. We don't need to be in any hurry. But we don't want to be unduly slow either. God has great plans for Seneca Presbyterian and we are ready to be God's faithful stewards in bringing them to fruition.

As of this writing, we have met twice and already have two more meetings scheduled before the middle of July. The faithful members of the team are Beverly Crabtree, Lynn Harwell, Louis Holleman, Kathy McCants, Donna Montague, Don Owen, and Ken Shull.

At our second meeting, we reflected on the nature of the Church. The article we shared as a springboard for conversation included this statement: "The Church exists to change lives, make disciples, and to grow people of faith." What do you think?

We seek your prayerful support. Please remember this team in your prayers asking God to guide us toward the future God intends.

Vacation Time – I will be away from Seneca during the week after the Fourth of July, sharing some time with my extended family at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. We have been gathering for these games for many years. This year marks the first time I can actually say I will be doing research for our next Kirking of the Tartans in 2012. Richard Caldwell will be filling the pulpit on July 10th and I will be back in the office on July 12th.

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. The next series is scheduled for July 17th, 24th, and 31st. 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

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

June Window into the Session

By: Sally Owen

(Sally Owen was note taker for Grandpa Krabbe tonight because he was at the hospital holding his brand new, beautiful grandchild Raegan Cannon. She is the hours old daughter of Tess and Tyler Cannon. God is good.)

Several of Seneca Presbyterian's elders were off frolicking on vacation or were with visiting friends. Attendance was rather "summery" but a quorum was present.

Nancy Morris opened our Session meeting with a reading from Acts 13. She asked us to reflect on what it means to be called and set apart for service. Interesting and insightful comments were shared. Several of us felt as if we were not "ready or worthy to serve" but answered the call. We all agreed that though being an elder involves much work, we have all been blessed by this service to our Lord through this church. Nancy shared a quote, "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called."

Ed Krech stated that the Nominating Committee is contacting people to serve as officers at Seneca Presbyterian Church.

Joys and Concerns were shared. Nancy gave updates on congregation members' statuses. Prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for help and guidance were offered.

Action items from the Elders' Winter Retreat were reviewed. Many items are currently being addressed. Progress was happily noted. Work on these items continues.

Ed Krech, chair of Christian Education Committee, reported that Vacation Bible School is set for the last week of July. All staff positions for VBS are filled with talented and excited SPC members. Kindergarteners through fifth graders will be attending. Registration forms are in the church office. They will be mailed to last year's participants. Forms and posters announcing VBS will also be posted at various sites.

Bob Norton, chair of Finance, and Bob White, Treasurer, presented a proposal to change the financial fiscal year for the church. After a thorough explanation, the Session voted unanimously to adopt the change. The congregation will be well informed through printed information and with a meeting to share information and address questions. Don Lesley, chair of Stewardship, felt the timing was right and benefits were strong to make this change.

Sally Owen, chair of Outreach Committee, and Nancy Morris shared information on the proposed change in SPC's website. The Outreach Committee viewed a "mock up" at their June meeting. Rob Krabbe (Grandpa, remember?) has worked to place some information on this site. It will allow much interaction for committees as well as members and visitors to SPC. The new website will be interactive (dynamic). The cost of the site will be covered within the Outreach budget. Rob had shared with Outreach that the current SPC website gets about 150 hits per week. All elders were cautioned and encouraged that we each must be diligent about keeping our committees' information current. The session voted unanimously to move ahead with the new website.

Sally also shared information about an outreach opportunity her committee is proposing. A Celebration of Friendship Dinner and Apron Auction will be held on November 10, 2011. Congregation members are being encouraged to invite a friend, a neighbor or family members to attend. We will eat, fellowship and enjoy a lively auction together. Fourteen SPC seamstresses are

busily sewing aprons. Sponsors are being asked to donate \$20 to \$25 of goods which they will arrange in a basket to accompany aprons. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. ALL proceeds will go to a local charity selected by the Missions Committee. Members will need to make reservations, as a crowd is expected. All elders were encouraged to participate and save the date. There was a unanimous vote to move forward with this endeavor.

Nancy reported that there will be a fall 2011 Triennial Visit from the Foothills Presbytery to Seneca Presbyterian Church.

Sally Owen was nominated as a commissioner to the Foothills Presbytery meeting scheduled for August 16, 2011 at Camp Buc.

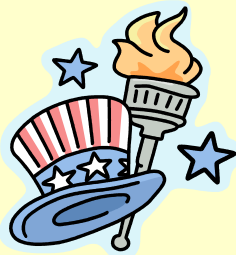
Nancy also asked that Session nominate a member for Senior Superlative from Seneca Presbyterian Church. This person will be recognized at a Foothills Presbytery luncheon on August 18th. Only one member was suggested, and there were many hoorays and nods around the table. I can't tell you who it is because it may still be a secret. Quietly ask one of your elders in private, and we will whisper the name to you...

A reminder was given of the Inquirers/New Members Class which will be held on July 17th, 24th, 31st during the Sunday school hour. Diana Owens is coordinating this initiative. Outreach is sponsoring a luncheon for participants following the last class meeting.

Communion will be served on July 3rd.

A Celebrate America picnic will also be held following the 11:00 a.m. service on July 3rd.

Our meeting was closed with prayer.



**The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, July 4th**

Christian sympathy is extended to the families of

Betty Geist who died on May 12th
Amy Lou Rowe who died on May 25th
Dick Bringardner who died on June 24th
Jeanne Dost who died on June 26th

We Did It Again!!!!

Another year, another successful yard sale!!!! This is ALWAYS because of the outstanding commitment of the SPC volunteers who GET IT DONE!!!! The eleventh annual yard sale was successful, not only in money brought in (nearly \$3,000), but in friendships rekindled, fellowship had, new acquaintances made, and a super positive impact on our community. The main thing I will retain from this sale is the comments I heard from “shoppers”: “I look forward to this yard sale every year!”; “This is the best sale in the county!”; “What a GREAT time we had!”; “Can you do this more often?” (The more than one person that made that last comment received a certain “look” from “yours truly”!)

THANK YOU to the myriad of volunteers that made this happen – tables are moved in short order, items placed on them and sorted, and the “pricers” come in with determination on their faces! As a result, we were “all set” almost the day before the sale! As I said in this year’s critique, the volunteers were **supercalifragilisticexpalidocious!!!!** **Pat Hendershot** was on the spot the first day when the chairman was unavailable, and worked throughout the week. Our one and only “youth”, **Tristan Krabbe**, heard his name echoed throughout the morning to move items to cars – you were a lifesaver, Tristan!!!! The “money-changers” did a super job, including **Jack and Betty Kinback** (who have done this from day one – they must be tired!!!!), **Elaine Bushey, Leroy Drew, and Shirley Lacy**. Counters **Barb Kolze, Karen McBryde, Nancy Morris, and Debbie Simpson** were indispensable (even though two were mere novices!!!!). We also had “hot dog reviver” and “gal of all trades and all days!” **Carolyn Maddox**, professional jewelry “arranger” **Jeanne Dost**, table-moving Supermen **Mike Harper** and **Glenn McCants**, price arbiters **Jim Holmquist, Wayne Montague**, and **Bob Norton** and boutique shopkeepers **Beth Colquhoun** and **Peggy Fouts**.

Many, many thanks to all of the “worker bees”: **Bob and Geri Bender, Bob Bisceglia, Connie Brinson, Dick Bushey, Ann Castle, Becky Drew, Florence Goehle, Karen Gomez, Becky Hetherington, Kelly Holleman, Margot Holmquist, Helen Kelly, Nancy Kroske, Kathie LaFontaine, Norma Liebenberg, Larry Marrett, Donna Montague, Barbara Norton, Kem and Lee Oelberg, Sue Pratt, Don and Doris Rieck, Joan Riley, Lou Schuman, and Dian Yanessa**. Thank you, also, to everyone who donated items for the sale. Obviously, without you, we couldn’t have one!!!! If you worked and your name is not included, mea culpa – I used the volunteer sign-up sheets to compile my list. If I missed you in the mayhem, please know how much you were needed and appreciated. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did – it is **ONE AMAZING EXPERIENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!** Thank you to **EVERYONE** who participated from the bottom of my heart.

--- Ann



Congratulations to Tess & Tyler Cannon on the arrival of their new baby girl, **Raegan Nicolle Cannon** born on June 13th. She weighed 8.48 lbs. and was 19.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Rob & Melissa Krabbe.

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

In the Bible, there are stories of hospitality offered and received. Abraham gives three strangers food and drink. The widow of Zarephath offers Elijah food and shelter. Two travelers offer to share lodging with a stranger on the road to Emmaus. In all these stories, the hospitality of the host results in amazing new life: Abraham learns he will become a father in his old age; the widow's dead son comes to life again; the stranger is revealed to be Jesus back from the grave.

Many of us offer hospitality to those who are new to our neighborhood or family. We may take, or invite them to, a meal and share an evening getting to know each other. We might pass along the names of a favorite restaurant, church, fishing spot, hairstylist, or physician. Perhaps we'll invite them to join us for golf, cards, a concert, book club, or a raft party on the lake. In return we are renewed. Our stories, our recipes, our homes, and even our jokes are new again. Such is the blessing of hospitality.

Seneca Presbyterian Church would like to extend our hospitality to all who are new members, 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 – July 17th, 24th, and 31st - between services. Each meeting will start at 10:00 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. Following worship on July 31st, we will share lunch together and those who choose to join will be received as new members.

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.

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.



As I move in to my final year of seminary, God willing, I wanted to express my sincere thanks for the wonderful support and encouragement you all have been to me and my family. You have continually expressed your encouragement to me, told me you are praying for me, and even supported me financially. You have been such an incredible blessing! Thanks and blessings to you all!

---Melissa Krabbe

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. *Note: B&BB will not be in session on July 7th.*
- 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.

Spring Golf Outing

A beautiful day on the golf course was enjoyed by all that participated in the church tournament and made those missed shots forgettable.

The winners in the couples division were:

1st Place

Bob Bender
Geri Bender
Archie Barron
Barbara Barron

2nd Place

Chuck Kellner
Judy Kellner
Harold Smith
Sue Smith

In the traditional competition the winners were:

1st Place

Bruce Woods
Bill Cochran
Bob Caswell

2nd Place

Jerry Crabtree
Ken Shull
Glenn McCants
Rich Simington



Closest to the pin: Bruce Woods

A donation of \$231.33 will be made to Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund from funds raised by the tournament.

Thanks to Beverly Crabtree for the meal we enjoyed following the golf tournament. It was good to have Nancy and Phil Morris join us for dinner.

We hope all golfers will join us in the fall for the next outing.

July Birthdays

01-----	Bill Miller	15-----	Rose Hart
01-----	Sally Owen	16-----	Fay Whitmire
04-----	Trey McAnally	17-----	Reid Arnold
04-----	Nancy Morris	17-----	Elaine Bushey
04-----	Jane Thomas	17-----	Tom Waldrop
05-----	Larry Kolze	18-----	Barbara Kolze
06-----	Susan Caldwell	20-----	Charles Dougherty
06-----	Merilyn Moss	21-----	Nancy Dendy
07-----	Greg Henning	21-----	Kate Morgan
08-----	Callie Murr	24-----	Barbara Norton
09-----	Steve Kelley	24-----	Rich Simington
09-----	Martha Pruitt	26-----	Ann Sullivan
10-----	Don Liebenberg	27-----	Wayne Montague
11-----	Pam Hagen	28-----	Alex Waring
11-----	Vivienne Hammond	29-----	Nancy Zint
15-----	Joyce Brickett		



July Anniversaries

01-----	Evans & Pat Harris	19-----	Bob & Geri Bender
03-----	Dick Kassler & Beth Kloker	24-----	Ed & Pam Hagen
07-----	Clint & Patricia Henry	26-----	Rich & Kathy Gerner
10-----	Harry & Pat Hendershot	30-----	Don & Betty Aschom
10-----	Don & Sally Owen	31-----	Danny & Jane Day
11-----	Jerry & Beverly Crabtree		

Vacation Bible School

July 25 - 29, 2011 ♦ 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

For ages 4 thru 5th Grade ♦ Register by July 19



Excitement is in the air! This year's Vacation Bible School promises to be full of fun and energy – with lots of great Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks, and the opportunity to meet and interact with **SCRAPS**, the raccoon! The theme this year is "Shake It Up": Jesus calls us to "shake up" our lives and become his followers. The recipe for the week is: be ready for God's call, give happily to God and to others, believe fully in Jesus as God's Son, remember Jesus' life and teachings, and celebrate God forever. The Forum Room will be transformed into a fantastic old-fashioned chrome-lined diner, and all the participants will become chefs and chefettes! Please encourage neighbors, grandchildren, etc. to join us for what will be a fun-filled culinary look at Jesus' teachings! Registration forms are available in the church office. See you there!

G. W. Gignilliat House and Seneca Presbyterian Church

For the 113 years of its existence, the Gignilliat House has been associated with Seneca Presbyterian Church. George Warren Gignilliat (1854-1926) had built his original home where the Education Building stands today, adjacent to the original Seneca Presbyterian Church (1883-1917)¹. But in 1898 he sold it and moved into the new Gignilliat House on West South First Street. He did so before that new house was fully ready, with hanging canvas covering open windows, in order that the new minister of SPC, William S. Hamiter², could move into the original Gignilliat house in December 1898 as promised³. Mr. G. W. Gignilliat was an eminently successful business man who began several profitable businesses in the new town of Seneca.



The seven grandsons of George Warren Gignilliat are posed west of Gignilliat House in 1931. Rear: G. W. Gignilliat III, C.N. Gignilliat Jr, Thomas M. Gignilliat; Front: Frank Adams, Lawrence Adams, John. L. Gignilliat, William G. Gignilliat. Each resided on South First Street. Seneca Presbyterian Church sits behind the old auto at right. Gignilliat House, then 33 years old, remains unchanged today.

About 1905, the church purchased their first Manse, a two-story white frame house on South First Street just west of the church. It had been built by J. F. Gignilliat². This house stood where the new red brick Manse was constructed to replace it in 1950. The new house remains in private ownership today.

When in 1916, plans for the new sanctuary were being made, a son (Charles N. Gignilliat 1881-1964, who was appointed deacon in 1909) and a daughter (Sue Gignilliat 1888-1978, who was Sunday School teacher of Class 8) played prominent roles on the Building Committee⁴. Sue Gignilliat later became owner of Gignilliat House when G.W.G. died in 1926. Shortly before his death, his son C. N. Gignilliat began construction of his own new home on South First Street adjacent to that of his parents. In mid-1916, the original sanctuary was rolled into the middle of Oak Street so that construction could begin on the new sanctuary. The narrow unpaved track of Oak Street can be seen alongside the original sanctuary in the publication of SPC history⁵. Services were held there until 1917 when the new sanctuary was completed. The original was apparently destroyed.

Three Gignilliat women were dependable Sunday School teachers, both in the original sanctuary and in the new one. They were two daughters of G.W.G., Sue Gignilliat, owner of the house after 1926, and Lulu Gignilliat (Norton), and Sallie McCutchen Gignilliat, wife of C.N. Gignilliat.

Following the deaths of the three daughters of George Warren Gignilliat, Nancy and Donald Clayton purchased Gignilliat House in 1989 from the estate of Sue Gignilliat. All three daughters (Sue 1978, Lulu 1980, and Norma 1988) had died at home in Gignilliat House. Claytons negotiated with Thomas Gignilliat, who had inherited his father's home next door, to acquire Gignilliat House. Thomas Gignilliat had served as deacon (1939) of Seneca Presbyterian Church. Thomas was well known and loved by many of today's congregation. The acquisition of Gignilliat House by Donald and Nancy Clayton maintained the membership of its owners in Seneca Presbyterian Church.

So it happened that the history of the town of Seneca, which began in 1873, the history of the 1898 Gignilliat House and its family, and the history of Seneca Presbyterian Church Sanctuary (1917) were closely interwoven.

Donald D. Clayton, May 2011

¹ Two photographs of the original sanctuary appear in the church history, *Seneca Presbyterian Church (1874-1968)*, p. 7 and 39.

² *Seneca Presbyterian Church (1874-1968)*, p. 17 and p.19. W. Hamiter was minister during 1898-1904. J.F. Gignilliat, whose house became the first Manse, was apparently a relative of G. W. Gignilliat, as was also H.J. Gignilliat, who built the white Victorian house across West South First Street from Gignilliat House. In all, the Gignilliat families built six of the nine homes on South First Street, making that street a large Gignilliat enclave. The first Manse, the J.F. Gignilliat house, appears to be visible in the photograph of the original sanctuary on p. 7.

³ Conversations of this writer with Thomas Gignilliat disclosed that the old house had been promised to be available to Reverend Hamiter in December 1898, causing the premature move. See also *A Centennial Memoir: Sue Lawrence and George Warren Gignilliat*, p. 16, by John L. Gignilliat, historian at Agnes Scott College and grandson of G.W.G.

⁴ *Seneca Presbyterian Church (1874-1968)*, p. 21

⁵ *Seneca Presbyterian Church (1874-1968)*, p. 39. Both photos, p. 7 and p. 39, show that the original sanctuary entrance was on South First Street, facing where the SPC Chapter House now sits.

Memorials

Hessie Finley: Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Pearson

Betty Geist: Don & Doris Rieck

Amy Lou Rowe: Rich Simington, Kem & Lee Oelberg, Ken & Lou Schuman, Dick & Marlene Edlund, Martha & Young Kim, John Elliott, Carl & Sharon Peeters, Jack & Betty Kinback and Nancy Zint

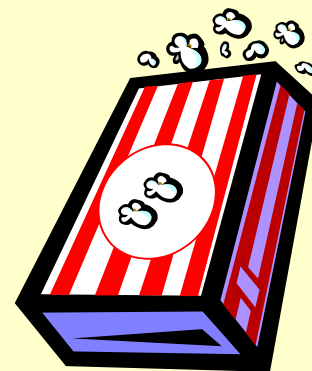
Evelyn Wallace: Sara Davis Stribling Class

Ferber Whitmire: Randy & Cheryl Gilchrist and Ralph Gilchrist

*Christi, Kelan & Lettie Brown have given a gift to the Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund in honor of
Don & Sally Owen*

Thursday Night at the Movies

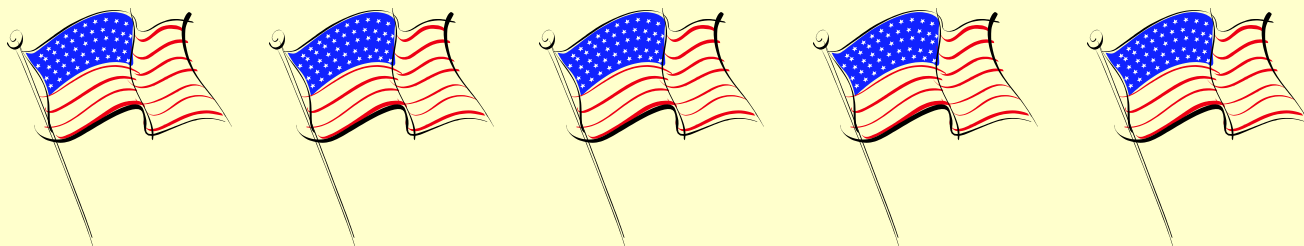
Join us on the fourth Thursday of each month as we explore Christian themes in popular movies. Our next gathering will be July 28th at 6:30 p.m. and the feature will be *The Milagro Beanfield War*. It's advisable to know from the beginning of "The Milagro Beanfield War" that "milagro" is the Spanish word for "miracle." The scene is a rundown Hispanic community in New Mexico, bordering a posh housing development. In full control of the local water rights, the powers-that-be are secure in the belief that they'll be able to expand their development without resistance from the locals. No one can foresee that impoverished farmer Joe Mondragon, during a burst of frustrated rage, will accidentally open a heretofore hidden sluice, thereby providing free water for his bean field. At first, the locals are against Mondragon's "insurrection," reasoning that the new housing development will provide jobs. But with the help of Charlie Bloom, a burned-out '60s activist who now runs the community newspaper, Mondragon becomes the hero of the hour, the spiritual leader of an ever-growing "no development" movement. The evil land developers send their minions to intimidate or coerce Mondragon; each time, however, he is seemingly protected from harm by divine intervention. When Mondragon is forced to shoot a trespasser on his land, it looks as though his luck has run out. Chased into the hills by private detective Kyril Montana, Mondragon is once more rescued in the nick of time by what appears to be a miracle. And there are more wonders to behold before fade-out time!



Our "Pastors' Hall movie club" is open to anyone who wishes to join us at any time. Many people bring lawn chairs to help make the watching more enjoyable, along with their own suppers. Popcorn is always provided. We watch, then share reflections together. Feel free to suggest movies you think the group would enjoy because watching them has left a lasting impact on you.

Committee Meetings

- ✝ **Christian Education Committee** will meet on Tuesday, July 12th, at 4:00 p.m.
- ✝ **Finance Committee** will meet on Monday, July 18th, at 4:00 p.m.
- ✝ **Knitting Bee** will meet on Friday, July 8th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapter House; bring a sandwich.
- ✝ **Missions/Community Care Committee** will meet on Monday, July 11th, at 4:00 p.m.
- ✝ **Session** will meet on Monday, July 25th at 6:30 p.m.
- ✝ **Stewardship Committee** will meet on Monday, July 18th, at 3:30 p.m.



Odyssey News

On Thursday, June 16th, thirty-three women and men from various churches and organizations in the Seneca area boarded the bus to experience the Odyssey Trip to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. We arrived at 11:30 a.m. and made our way to the Dairy Bar to have a bite of lunch before starting the tour. After a very delightful meal we met Bessie the Cow who told us of 'Billy Frank's' humble beginnings. Then for two hours we were mesmerized by the memorabilia, artifacts, recordings of Billy's experiences, etc. as we toured the Library. He truly was guided by God in his work, travels and successes. We took a detour to go back to the Dairy Bar for ice cream (thanks Bessie for that) and then toured Billy's family home which has been rebuilt on the Library grounds literally 'brick by brick.' At 3:30 p.m. we left Charlotte to cruise back to Seneca with our hearts singing praises of God's servant and how he touched so many lives in so many countries. Our group was a very ecumenical group and we enjoyed sharing the day. We all look forward to traveling together again soon – hopefully in November when Odyssey goes to Asheville.

Odyssey Game Day meets on the second Friday of each month. Come and join us on Friday, July 8th, 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

July 10th – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Jim & Margot Holmquist in memory of Bill Wilmer.

July 17th – In lieu of flowers, Larry & Barbara Kolze have made a donation to the Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund in memory and honor of their parents.

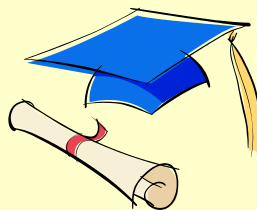
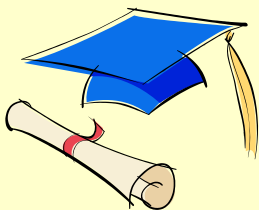
July 24th – The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Bob & Barb Norton in celebration of family.

July 31st – The flowers are placed in the church today to God's glory and in celebration of Russ and Helen Kelly's 25th wedding anniversary.



Graduation News

Kevin Murr, son of Lucy and Kenneth, graduated with an M.D. degree from MUSC. He has moved to Lexington, KY, with his wife, Erin, and their one-year-old son, Patrick. He will be in residency there for 5 years in orthopedic surgery specializing in trauma orthopedics. Congratulations Kevin!



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.

In Romans 9:13-15, Paul discusses God's love for Jacob and hatred for Esau. Please note that Paul references Malachi 1: 2-3. Is God unfair or unjust? Is He arbitrary or cruel?

Both Paul and Malachi wrestled with the accounts of Esau & Jacob as recorded in Genesis. We have, too. God is depicted as someone who loves us all {e.g. Psalm 145:9}. Yet both Malachi & Paul are challenged by the contrasts and the descriptions of this important piece of Bible history. It was God's plan that Abraham and his lineage were to become His chosen people. God's choice of Jacob over Esau again demonstrates that His grace is independent of so-called natural rights or human sensibilities.

When Scripture talks about God's hatred, it uses a Biblical idiom which does not imply that God exhibits disgust, disdain or a desire for revenge. There are objects meriting God's hatred including: the seven evils {Prov 6:19}, hypocritical worship {Isa 1:14, Amos 5:21} and even death itself. Because of God's purely righteous nature, He can express anger against all wrong and evil. And, we have to be careful about the pairing of 'love & hate' in the Bible per our English language and culture. In Gen 29:30-33, Jacob is said to have hated Leah and in the same passage it is said that Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. In this, and in other passages, hate is used as the opposite of love instead of 'loved less'. Jesus also uses similar language {Luke 14: 26}. Jesus is clearly not equating loving Him more with hating one's one family, BUT He is making a point about how important He is and how important it is for one to love and follow Him.

God does not experience human hatred – with all its sinful, negative connotations. God chooses & calls various people according to His divine purpose and plan. His choices and calls do not imply favoritism, bias or capriciousness. God did not ordain, in advance, what Jacob's nation of Israel or Esau's nation of Edom would do, or what we'll do!

Let's say you decided to adopt two puppies who were brothers. But one was a little more difficult and headstrong. Maybe you even liked the cuter, short-haired one who wasn't as strong and also chewed up your slippers and got into more mischief when you weren't looking. For whatever purposes you wanted dogs, the weaker, more troublesome puppy was the one you preferred. Would you love one puppy and hate the other?

God did not choose me to be a champion golfer or baseball star. I will not run for President. And Hollywood has not requested me to take a screen test. But I do not think for a moment that God hates me – in the human sense of the word. He created us all in His image but He didn't choose the same things for us. We must answer His calls for us and be concerned about His choices for us and stop worrying about what he calls others to do and the choices about them He made.

The next two Bible Chats will be devoted to two of my favorite images of Jesus: In the Garden of Gethsemane and Knocking at the Door. Both are beautifully rendered in stain glass in our sanctuary. Read Matt. 26: 36-46 for more about that night in the garden.

-Bruce Woods-



Seneca Presbyterian Church

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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

July Scripture

July 3: Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Ps. 45:10-17 or S. of Sol. 2:8-13;
Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10: Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112;
Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

July 17: Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24;
Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

July 24: Gen. 29:15-28; Ps. 105:1-11, 45b or
Ps. 128; Rom. 8:26-39;
Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

July 31: Gen. 32:22-31; Ps. 17:1-7, 15;
Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21