

# Crossings

July, 2017

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## “Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?”

*Who are the people in your neighborhood,  
In your neighborhood, in your neighborhood?  
Say, who are the people in your neighborhood?*

*They're the people that you meet when you're walking down the street.  
They're the people that you meet each day.*

It's been years since I've heard it, but I still remember the neighbor song from Sesame Street. Maybe you remember it, too, whether you heard it first as a child, as a parent, or simply as a lover of Sesame Street and its cast of muppets and humans. The song was a way for children to learn all the different jobs people had in the neighborhood like the police or firefighter. It helped to teach roles and responsibilities, and as an educational show for children, this made sense.

It helped children to make observations and guided them to be curious about those they meet while walking around the neighborhood. It helped kids to see beyond themselves into the neighborhood and see the people who were around each and every day.

However, in thinking about how we make sense of neighbors in a Christian-ly way, I think about another children's show with a song: Mr. Roger's Neighborhood.

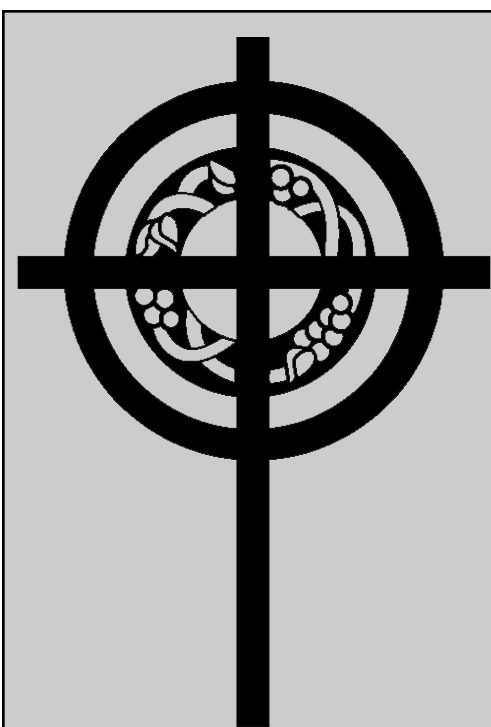
*It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,  
A beautiful day for a neighbor,  
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?...*

*I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,  
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.*

*So let's make the most of this beautiful day,  
Since we're together, we might as well say,  
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?  
Won't you be my neighbor?...*

As many likely know, this was the song that Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister, sang to open his children's show. This song is different from the Sesame Street song in a couple of key ways: it is an invitation, not just to observation but into relationship, and it expresses Mr. Roger's imagination and desire to be neighbors with his listeners/watchers.

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**CHURCH STAFF****Pastoral**

The Rev. Jihyun Oh  
*Interim Pastor/Head of Staff*  
 pastor@opcbrookhaven.org

The Rev. Dr. Linda Hawthorne  
*Parish Associate*

**Program and Support**

Cheryl Hartman, C.C.E.  
*Office Manager, Facilities*  
*Director of Christian Education*  
 cheryl@opcbrookhaven.org

Dr. Tim Hsu  
*Music Director*  
 tim@opcbrookhaven.org

Alexandria Stephenson  
*Communications Assistant*  
 alexandria@opcbrookhaven.org

**Preschool**  
 404.233.5479

Beverly Moon  
*Director*  
 beverly@oppbrookhaven.org

Lynnette Kachel  
*Assistant Director*  
 lynnette@oppbrookhaven.org

**Pastor Emeritus**  
 The Rev. Dr. Fitzhugh Legerton

**Ministers**  
 All Members of OPC



**Next Deadline for  
 Crossings  
 July 20, 2017**

At its June 25, 2016 meeting, the Session made the following decisions:

- Approve the continuing use of OPC buildings and grounds as an emergency reunification center for OLA schools for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Discussed and approved the new bylaws for the congregation, which will be distributed before the next congregational meeting for congregational review and vote.

The Session spent a long time discussing terms for officers. Currently, deacons serve terms of 2 years in classes of 3 people each. The Session has been serving in 3 classes of 3 years each. A decision was made to change elder terms to 2 years, as well.

Originally, 3-year terms were thought to give stability and continuity to Session leadership and also to give sufficient time for officers to learn the business and mission of the church. With the current pace of life and the many changes that can bring, many churches are finding that 3-year commitments are difficult for many people to make. The hope is that 2-year terms will still maintain stability, continuity, and time to learn about the church and its mission and business, while offering those who would feel called to serve as an elder, but cannot make a 3-year commitment a chance to serve as they feel led.

The Session, and in particular the Finance & Administration committee, continues to monitor the financial strength and needs of OPC. The Session also heard updates about the work being done to resolve the drainage issues in the Memorial Garden and near the new OPP Kindergarten classroom in the basement of the Chapel.

Finally, as the PNC proceeds in its work in the search process for OPC's next pastor, Session expressed a desire for Jihyun to continue on as Interim Pastor. Finance & Administration Committee will review the contract extension and make a recommendation at the next Session meeting on July 23, 2017.

*Oglethorpe Presbyterian maintains an open book policy. All financial reports and session minutes are available at request.*

**People in Our Prayers**

*Mary Lee Williams; Barbara Kiefer-Konow (Georgia Gunter's Mother); Virginia Quillian; Stewart Cobb (Diane Powell's friend); Diane Powell; The Rev. Denise Anderson and The Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston (Co-Moderators, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)); Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church during our transition.*

June 18, 2017

**Dear community of disciples at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church,**

The Session, in a called conference-call meeting, approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), and the MIF is now posted on the PC(USA)'s leadership connection site. Pastoral candidates will view the MIF and will either be referred or will refer themselves to the PNC for consideration as OPC's next pastor.

The writing of the MIF and discerning the church's identity and call are an important part of the pastoral search process. A church's particular description of itself and the mission it is called to be a part of offers critical information to pastoral candidates who will be considering whether they are called to journey with a particular church in its next chapter.

As part of the MIF approval, the Session also approved a new mission statement. The statement, written by the PNC based on reflections from the Community Café event and written survey responses is as follows:

The mission of Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church (OPC) is to provide living witness to the love of God and the ministry of Jesus through worship, study, fellowship, and service. Jesus commanded us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39). As children of God, and followers of Christ, we at OPC seek to live out this Great Commandment by:

\* **Connecting** with God, with one another, and with neighbors near and far. OPC's story is one that belongs to God. We are believers who desire to make the Kingdom of God manifest in this world. We want to become more invitational to those desiring to experience God's love. We strive to fulfill the promise of our baptism, and to acknowledge and accept diverse expressions of our Christian faith.

\* **Growing** together as a faith community. OPC serves as a source of constant nurture for its members in all stages of life. We strive to strengthen our relationship with God through careful examination and application of God's word as perfected in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

\* **Serving** others in grateful response to God's grace and mercy. OPC members are called to live for more than ourselves, to reach out both within and beyond the four walls of our church. Continuing the earthly ministry of Jesus, we use the gifts and resources we have received to love and care for one another, as well as to find new ways to minister to the greater society.

In the coming days, we will also be working on a comprehensive communication plan and will be unveiling a church tagline that matches the mission statement, which will replace the current tagline: The Community is Our Congregation.

Please continue to pray for the PNC and for the pastor whom God has been preparing for OPC.

I am grateful for your ongoing partnership and prayers,  
Jihyun



## Habitat for Humanity House Completed and Dedicated!

OPC has another Habitat for Humanity hammer, which marks OPC's contributions to another home built as part of an ecumenical team collaborating to accomplish Habitat's mission to "put God's love into action" by bringing "people together to build homes, communities, and hope." That is one more good home built toward a vision of "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

The home was dedicated on Saturday, June 24, 2017 (see picture below). The homeowner was so dedicated and excited that she completed all of her homeowner courses and sweat-equity hours long before the deadline. Because of the courses offered and required by Habitat for Humanity, she and her family will be better prepared than most new homeowners to fix things around the house and manage her new home.

### Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church Financial Summary

	<u>May-17</u>	<u>YTD 2017</u>	<u>YTD 2016</u>	<u>change</u>
Receipts	\$ 24,267	112,654	125,229	(12,575)
Expenditures	28,498	131,099	134,145	(3,046)
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>(4,232)</u>	<u>(18,446)</u>	<u>(8,916)</u>	<u>(9,529)</u>
Beginning bank balance	\$ 144,304	127,584	141,716	(14,132)
Cash increase/ (decrease)	<u>(49,464)</u>	<u>(32,745)</u>	<u>(16,321)</u>	<u>(16,424)</u>
Ending bank balance	<u>94,840</u>	<u>94,840</u>	<u>125,395</u>	<u>(30,555)</u>
Loan balance		\$ 97,902	0	97,902
Reserve funds		\$ 44,519	67,801	(23,282)
Reserves - months of budget expense		1.5	2.4	(0.9)

- Receipts are down from 2016 primarily due to a decrease in giving of \$18,406, but we received \$6,250 for movie parking!

- YTD Expenditures are down \$3,046 as the Session is closely watching expenses in this transition.

- Reserve fund is total of designated reserve fund plus retained earnings

*OPC has an open book financial policy: for more information, contact the Treasurer, Jardon Bouska via email: [jtbouska@comcast.net](mailto:jtbouska@comcast.net)*

# Monthly Calendar



## Stewards Serving Sunday, July 2:

**liturgist:** \_\_\_\_\_; **ushers/greeters:** Brett Phillips, Connie Phillips; **ushers/counters:** Georgia Gunter, Matt Kim; **sound/open:** Brandon Cassidy; **Refreshments:** \_\_\_\_\_, **nursery:** Mark Kelly.

## Stewards Serving Sunday, June 9:

**liturgist:** Jeff Morris; **ushers/greeters:** Cindy Alexander, \_\_\_\_\_; **ushers/counters:** Donna Poseidon, Charles Hawthorne; **sound/open:** Jeff Morris; **Refreshments:** Jen Allison, **nursery:** \_\_\_\_\_.

## Stewards Serving Sunday, July 16:

**liturgist:** Jeff Chance; **ushers/greeters:** Earline Willcott, Cortlandt Minnich; **ushers/counters:** Nancy Minnich, Adam Weaver; **sound/open:** Bill Cox; **Refreshments:** Cindy Alexander, **nursery:** Gabby Paterson.

## Stewards Serving Sunday, July 23:

**liturgist:** Linda Morris; **ushers/greeters:** Emily & Thomas Paterson, Pat Morrison; **ushers/counters:** Mary Lee Williams, \_\_\_\_\_; **sound/open:** \_\_\_\_\_; **Refreshments:** Margy Jones; **nursery:** Steve Allison.

## Stewards Serving Sunday, July 30:

**liturgist:** Georgia Gunter; **ushers/greeters:** Jean Cox, \_\_\_\_\_; **ushers/counters:** Mary Ann Hawthorne, Ethan Gillespie; **sound/open:** \_\_\_\_\_; **Refreshments:** Linda Hawthorne; **nursery:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**WORSHIP**  
Jeff Morris

During July, we will hold worship services at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the chapel. Please join us for a unique and intimate experience!



OPC has new giving options!

Visit [www.opcbrookhaven.org](http://www.opcbrookhaven.org) to learn more or download the GIVE+ app on your smartphone!

## Regular Meetings

(except when noted elsewhere)

### Weekly

#### Sundays:

**11am** Worship

#### Tuesdays:

**10am** Food Pantry at Suthers Center  
**8pm** Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

#### Wednesdays:

**5:45pm** Centering Prayer (Parlor)  
**6:45pm** Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)

#### Fridays:

**10 am** Food Pantry at Suthers Center  
**8pm** Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

### Monthly

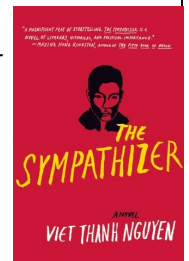
**Fourth Sundays after Worship**  
Session Meeting

## Calendar Events & Notes

Our next **church workday** is Saturday, **June 8**, from **9am to 1pm**. Please join in and help keep your church in good shape.

**Book club** will be at Eleanor Timmons' house, Monday July 10th at 7:00 where we will be discussing *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

If you would like information about joining the book club, contact Margy Jones at [mjbailey@aol.com](mailto:mjbailey@aol.com)



**Brunch Off Buford** will be Saturday, July 29 at Oriental Pearl Seafood Restaurant, 5399 New Peachtree Rd, Chamblee

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**PASTOR**

First of all, the PNC wants once again to thank all of you who participated in our World Cafe last month. It was a great success and we were able to use the information generated to compose and submit our Ministry Information Form (MIF) to our denomination headquarters. The MIF contains information about our congregation and what we are looking for in our next pastor.

The MIF is posted by the denomination headquarters and can be accessed by potential candidates for the position of OPC Pastor. We can expect to begin receiving Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) from potential candidates in the coming weeks. We will carefully review the information in each PIF to determine who will be eligible for interview.

Thank you once again for your patience and continued prayers for us as we seek to discern God's plan for OPC going forward and as we strive to find the best person to lead this congregation and to live into God with us.

As churches in the 21st century continue to rethink what it means to be church, and as OPC in particular continues to think about what it means to be church in this particular neighborhood of Brookhaven, the lessons of both of these songs are important. We first need to be curious about our neighbors, but we cannot stop there. What is our invitation? What is our imagination and desire about our neighbors and this neighborhood?

Jesus may have something to teach us about that.

In July, we will worship in the Chapel and starting on July 9, we will begin a new series called "Neighbors" in which we will explore the parables of Jesus, starting with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Come and explore. Come and engage. Come and grow your imagination and faith.

Grace and peace,  
Jihyun

**Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church**  
• **Worship:10am in June & July**  
**404.233.5469 • www.opcbrookhaven.org • info@opcbrookhaven.org**

DATED MATERIAL

*If you don't want to receive this by mail,  
please contact the church office:  
404.233.5469. cheryl@opcbrookhaven.org*

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church  
3016 Lanier Drive, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30319