

Oglethorpe Presbyterian

Crossings

August, 2017

Reconciliation, Hasty Peace, or Managed Process?

Close to 600 Presbyterians from all over the country gathered in St. Louis from July 6-8, 2017 for Big Tent 2017. Big Tent is the national gathering for our denomination, the Presbyterian Church(USA), that happens in odd years when the General Assembly doesn't meet. The theme for this year's event was "Race. Reconciliation. Reformation."

Given the location in St. Louis, close to Ferguson, MO, I and other participants were able to engage with and learn from the Giddings-Lovejoy presbytery and its congregations, who are doing the hard work of racial reconciliation in the aftermath of heightened racial tensions resulting from the shooting death of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old unarmed black man. We also listened and talked with one another about the reformation of the church, the church's role in the work of reconciliation, and what reconciliation is and isn't.

Although Big Tent had been in the works for a long time, the theme of reconciliation seemed appropriate, considering not only the race-related issues that have come into the national spotlight in the last couple of years, but also the rancor and hostility that have been present since the presidential campaign season. There has been a lot of name-calling, Facebook unfriending, and cutting off from family. Or there has been silence and avoidance, as people seek to talk only of "pleasant" things, things that they can agree on.

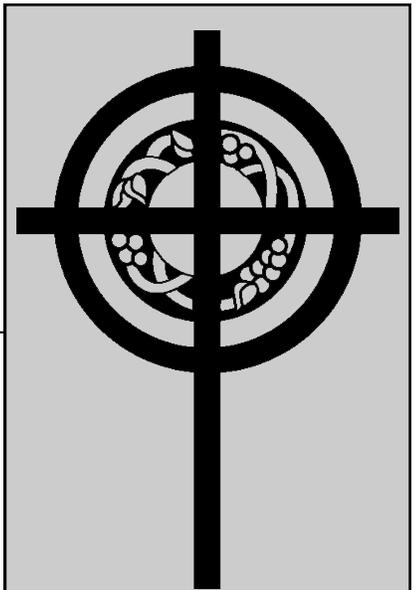
This is our new reality in 2017 - not that these feelings and ways of relating exist, but that these feelings and ways of relating are so much on the surface in our national, local, and personal dialogue, no longer hidden from view. And perhaps, as some have said, we are due for another reformation.

It was with this in mind that at its most recent meeting, the Worship Committee suggested that the August series be on reconciliation. As you might imagine, the Bible and our Reformed tradition has some things to say about human sin and reconciliation, and what our role as church and as individual disciples might be in living out the good news of Jesus Christ in a conflicted world.

So, as we move back into the Sanctuary and back to 11:00am worship, you are invited to come and engage with God's word of love and hope for us and for the world.

"...God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ..."

Grace and peace,
Jihyun



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It's here!
The new tagline that goes
with OPC's newest
mission statement is:
**Connect. Grow.
Serve. Belong.**

Look for it in the coming
weeks and months as we
begin to roll out the
tagline in all of OPC's
communication vehicles.

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

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Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Fitzhugh Legerton

Ministers
All Members of OPC



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

At its July 23, 2016 meeting, the Session made the following decisions:

- Approved minutes from June 8, 2017 called meeting and June 25, 2017 stated meeting and June 25, 2017 congregational meeting
- Approved agenda for July 23 stated meeting as amended
- Approved 2017-2018 CE teachers
- Approved interim pastor contract extension for six months
- Set congregational meeting for August 20 to elect new elders
- Approved new tagline for church: Connect.Grow.Serve.Belong.

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

WORSHIP
Jeff Morris

Reminder!!
Starting Sunday, August 6th, worship will return to **11:00 a.m.** in the **sanctuary**.
See you there!



OPC has new giving options!

Visit www.opcbrookhaven.org to learn more or download the GIVE+ app on

People in Our Prayers

Lee Marley; Karen Zacek (Amy Chance's mother); St. Martins School; Ben White (Linda Hawthorne's brother); 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.

In Memoriam

Lois Reynolds
(Paul Reynolds' mother)

*Nothing in all creation
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

-Romans 8

Monthly Calendar



Stewards Serving Sunday, August 6:

liturgist: Eleanor Timmons; **greeters:** Charles Hawthorne, Earline Wilcott; **counters:** Donna Poseidon, Georgia Gunter; **sound/open:** _____; **refreshments:** _____; **powerpoint:** Brock Timmons; **nursery:** Jennifer Kim.

Stewards Serving Sunday, August 13:

liturgist: Ric Paterson; **greeters:** _____; **counters:** Margy Jones, Brandon Cassidy; **sound/open:** _____; **refreshments:** Lisa Kelly; **powerpoint:** Tamara Lopata; **nursery:** _____

Stewards Serving Sunday, August 20:

liturgist: Nicholas Cox; **greeters:** Kelly Norris, Donna Poseidon; **counters:** Jesse Rappole, Eleanor Timmons; **sound/open:** Jean Cox; **refreshments:** _____; **powerpoint:** Mary Ann Hawthorne; **nursery:** Kristi Stephenson.

Stewards Serving Sunday, August 27:

liturgist: Donna Poseidon; **greeters:** Bill Balmer, Emily Texter; **counters:** Carl Texter, Ric Paterson; **sound/open:** Mark Kelly; **refreshments:** _____; **powerpoint:** Steve Allison; **nursery:** Deborah O'Donnell.

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church Financial Summary

	Jun-17	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	change
Receipts	\$ 19,135	131,789	153,531	(21,742)
Expenditures	27,430	158,529	168,069	(9,540)
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>(8,294)</u>	<u>(26,740)</u>	<u>(14,538)</u>	<u>(12,202)</u>
Beginning bank balance	\$ 94,840	127,584	141,716	(14,132)
Cash increase/ (decrease)	<u>(7,615)</u>	<u>(40,359)</u>	<u>(26,965)</u>	<u>(13,394)</u>
Ending bank balance	<u>87,225</u>	<u>87,225</u>	<u>114,751</u>	<u>(27,526)</u>
Loan balance	\$ 97,199	0	97,199	
Reserve funds	\$ 36,225	62,179	(25,954)	
Reserves - months of budget expense	1.2	2.2	(0.9)	

• Receipts are down from 2016 primarily due to a decrease in giving of \$31,449, but we received \$6,250 for movie parking!

• YTD Expenditures are down \$9,540 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

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)

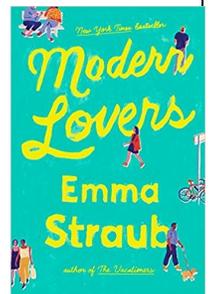
Monthly

Fourth Sundays after Worship
Session Meeting

Calendar Events & Notes

Our next **church workday** is Saturday, **August 12**, from **9am to 1pm**. Please join in and help keep your church in good shape.

OPC **book club** will meet Monday August 14th at Libba Sweeney's home where we will discuss *Modern Lovers* by Emma Straub. We will be finalizing the book selections for next year. For more information about the book club, contact Margy Jones at mjbailey@aol.com.



Choir will begin August 20th. Bells will begin August 16th. Contact tim@opcbrookhaven.org for more information.

**PASTOR NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

Your PNC has been working diligently. After receiving over 40 applications for OPC's vacant pastor position, we have narrowed down the list of candidates under consideration to just a few names. The initial interview stage has begun, and we hope to finalize our selection process within one to two months. Thank you for your patience! Please pray for the PNC as we continue in the process of discerning God's will for our congregation's pastoral leadership.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Steve Allison

Sunday School returns on August 6! Come join us in one of our classes each week at 9:45 am.

For the month of August both Adult classes will meet in the library and will study the Wired Word series of curriculum discussing how our faith interacts with current events.

The children will be studying the Deep Blue curriculum series of Learn and Serve as they work through the stories of the Bible and how that relates to our lives today.

MUSIC MINISTRY
TIM HSU

The last three summers have offered me a unique experience to teach through Western and Central Europe. This is in large part due to the generosity of OPC to allow me the time and opportunity for this program. Spending several weeks studying art and music has been an incredible for both me and the Georgia Tech students. I have greatly enjoyed taking Flat Jesus with me and posting pictures on Instagram (@flatjesustravels). However, several of you have expressed interest in hearing more about the travels in an informal setting. We are trying to gauge interest and determine a time for this. If this is something that are interested in, please email me at tim@opcbrookhaven.org

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
Worship: 11am • Christian Education: 9:45am
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

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