

Crossings

October, 2017

Cultivate.

The parable of the sower. The fruits of the Spirit. The parable of the mustard seed. The Bible uses a lot of agricultural imagery. Part of this is because these images would have been familiar to most people who were hearing the stories and parables for the first time. I wonder whether part of it wasn't also because faith and the life of faith are meant to be organic, always living and growing.

While the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus made us right with God once and for all (justification), we are called to grow more and more like Christ Jesus all the days of our lives (sanctification). The life of discipleship is about living in grateful response to God's work in Jesus Christ for us, and to be guided and equipped by the Holy Spirit in that grateful response.

Most of the time, stewardship season is thought of as the one season during the year in which we talk about money at church. But stewardship in the Christian life is more than about money and the church finances. Stewardship is a matter of discipleship. It is about growing in thankfulness, growing in faith, growing in love, growing in hope.

And although thankfulness, and faith, and love, and hope can grow by themselves some, just like seeds in the wild can grow by themselves, we are called to tend and to cultivate these seeds in us all our life long, because we have been claimed by God by the waters of our baptism.

Question #167: How is our Baptism to be improved by us?

Answer: The needful but much neglected duty of improving our Baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long...
(*Westminster Larger Catechism*)

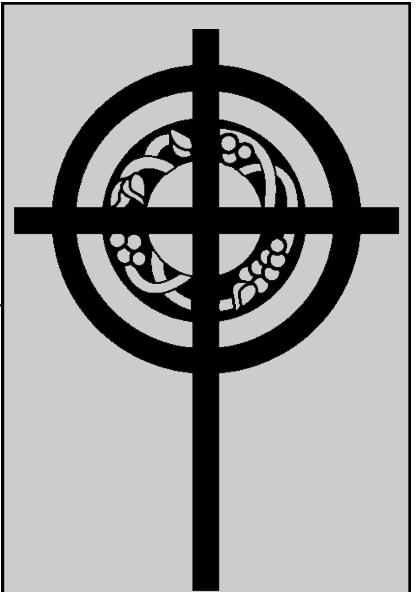
During this Stewardship Season starting October 15, 2017, we will explore together the ways we cultivate generosity and the ways we cultivate for the next chapter of OPC, the ways we improve our baptisms and grow in discipleship to Jesus Christ. We will talk about ways we have been cultivating already and ways we can cultivate for the future.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is nearing the end of their work. The Session has been reorganized to align with the new mission statement. A plan is being developed to make our communications more effective and clear to both those who are at OPC and those for whom we are called to be neighbors. You can read more about these acts of cultivation in this issue of the *Crossings*.

You are invited to come and explore with one another, what it means to cultivate for the next chapter, both as individuals and as church, and improve your baptism.

Grace and peace,

Jihyun



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Join us on
October 22
for a
**Congregational
Meeting**
following worship.

Connect. Grow.
Serve. Belong.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastoral

The Rev. Jihyun Oh
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 The Rev. Dr. Fitzhugh Legerton

Ministers
 All Members of OPC



Next Deadline for Crossings
October 20, 2017

At its September 24 meeting, the Session made the following decisions:

- Approved minutes from August 27, 2017 meeting as amended
- Approved agenda for September 24, 2017 meeting as amended
- Received Clerk's report
- Approved proposal by Sam Kim to hold a food drive for a food pantry collection and Missions to determine the facility/organization that will be the recipient of food collected
- Approved recommendation from Mission to give \$2400 to Jewish Family and Career Services (JF&CS) for a pilot project between 10/1/17 and 12/31/17 to buy food for residents of Calvin Court, a Presbyterian home for senior adults, with the funds coming from the Food Pantry Account 2301

Called a congregational meeting for October 22, 2017
Oglethorpe Presbyterian maintains an open book policy. All financial reports and session minutes are available at request.

People in Our Prayers

Karen Zacek (Amy Chance's mother), Kay Calvert; Mark Edson; Shannon Love (Genie Stringer's friend); Rivers Varn (Timmon's friend); Gwen Brouse (Christina Cross's Aunt); Jerry Gillespie (Ethan's Granny); Cuyler Barr and parents (Elizabeth Parks' friends); 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

Dick Smith

Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 -Romans 8

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

Monthly Calendar



Do you feel **called to serve** Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church in a new way? We are looking for volunteers to help in several areas on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help in any of the following areas, please tell the church office.

Nursery: Help nurture our younger members during the worship hour.

Open/Close/Sound: This person helps unlock the church on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and lock back up after worship. During worship they run the sound board.

Usher/Counter: Usher during worship by handing out bulletins and greeting people on Sunday mornings then counting the offering.

Refreshments: Provide light refreshments for the congregation to enjoy after worship.

Stewards Serving next Sunday, October 1:

liturgist: Reyn Langwell; **ushers/greeters:** Brett Phillips, Jean Cox; **ushers/counters:** Eleanor Timmons, Matt Kim; **sound/open:** Brandon Cassidy; **Refreshments:** Jennifer Allison; **PowerPoint:** Kelly Norris; **nursery:** Mark Kelly.

Stewards Serving next Sunday, October 8:

liturgist: Jeff Morris; **ushers/greeters:** Cindy Alexander, _____; **ushers/counters:** Donna Poseidon, Charles Hawthorne; **sound/open:** Jesse Rappole; **Refreshments:** Genie Stringer; **PowerPoint:** Tamara Lopata; **nursery:** _____.

Stewards Serving next Sunday, October 15:

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

Stewards Serving next Sunday, October 22:

liturgist: Linda Morris; **ushers/greeters:** Emily & Thomas Paterson, _____; **ushers/counters:** _____; **sound/open:** _____; **Refreshments:** Kristi Stephenson; **PowerPoint:** Brock Timmons; **nursery:** Steve Allison.

Stewards Serving next Sunday, October 29:

liturgist: Georgia Gunter; **ushers/greeters:** Jean Cox, _____; **ushers/counters:** Mary Ann Hawthorne, Ethan Gillespie; **sound/open:** _____; **Refreshments:** Jennifer Allison; **PowerPoint:** Christopher Soltis; **nursery:** _____.

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)

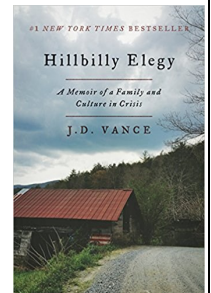
Monthly

Fourth Sundays after Worship
Session Meeting

Calendar Events & Notes

Our next **church workday** is Saturday, **October 14**, from **9am to 1pm**. Please join in and help keep your church in good shape.

OPC **book club** will meet Monday October 9 at 7pm in the OPC Parlor where we will discuss *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance.. For more information about the book club, contact Margy Jones at mjbailey@aol.com.



Trunk or Treat and **Food Drive** will be Sunday, October 29 in the upper parking lot. Sign-ups for anyone who wants to participate begin October 8

CONNECT, GROW, VISION SUPPORT

MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy Fall! The music ministry at OPC just kicked off their performance year in late August. We have exciting events this year, including our annual Songs for the Season concert and Taizé services. The Children's Music program continues to grow and we look forward to having the children participate in several services in the coming months. We will also hold a joint Handbell workshop with St. Luke's Presbyterian church in October with David VanderMeer (Central Presbyterian).

However, we are looking for additional volunteers to join us! You will find that we have a relaxed, casual, fun-loving community of volunteers from a variety of musical backgrounds. No prior musical experience is necessary, though. If you've ever been curious at participating in music, this is your opportunity. If you want to sing with us, play in the OPC band, work with the Children's Music program, ring bells, or participate in any other type of musical activity, please contact me at tim@opcbrookhaven.org.

E-NEWSLETTER and CROSSINGS

As part of our moving forward, we want to continue to be good stewards of our resources and the environment, and keep current with today's technology and communication methods. As a result, we are transitioning from primarily depending on print mail to email newsletters and communications before the end of 2017.

If you prefer to continue to receive Crossings by mail please let Cheryl know before the end of 2017.

If you would like your email address added to our weekly email please email office@opcbrookhaven.org

Thank you for helping us serve you.



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

Trunk-or-Treat will be on Sunday, October 29 this year. The exact time will be announced soon. For those who may be unfamiliar with what this is-it provides a safe space for kids to go trick-or-treating and show off their awesome costumes. Folks park their cars in the upper OPC parking lot with the trunk (or hatchback, or tailgate) pointed toward the inside making a rather large circle of cars. These trunks, hatchbacks and tailgates are decorated in spooky, Halloween-y ways and kids are able to go from car to car getting treats. We encourage people to provide non-food items as well as candy so that all kids are able to participate and enjoy the festivities. We'll have a sign-up sheet beginning October 8 for anyone who wants to participate. Also, this year we will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable items during Trunk-or-Treat for Sam Kim's food drive!!

SPECIAL ASK

We are already using funds raised by our recent Special Ask! We initiated the Ask in order to pay for drainage repairs and the expenses involved in hiring and relocating a new pastor. We have completed the drainage repairs and paid part of the expenses involved in hiring a new pastor. So far, we have raised \$5400 of our \$6000 goal. But there's more good news; a generous donor has offered to give an additional \$1000 if we reach our original goal of \$6000 by Sunday, October 8th. We need \$600 to meet that goal and qualify for the additional \$1000. If you would like to contribute, please send your contribution to the church or put it in the Sunday offering and designate for the Special Ask. OPC Finance Committee.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC is nearing the end of its discernment process. After reviewing almost 50 applications and narrowing the field of candidates down to two, the PNC has completed interviews and heard each of the finalists preach in person. We expect to make a final decision very soon and, after required Presbytery approvals, present the selected candidate for a congregational vote in the next few weeks. The PNC requests, and is grateful for, your continued patience, support, and prayers!

SERVE

Atlanta Ministry with International Students

AMIS held the 40th Annual International Student Welcome Reception on Sept 16 at Georgia Tech Student Center Ballroom. The reception featured the Kennesaw State University Jazz Trio and was catered by Carrabba's of Kennesaw. Irene Wong, the new executive director, welcomed over 400 international students and American friends and extended the hand of friendship.

International college students will be arriving in the Atlanta area in August for the new school year.

Many of these international students have never been to the US before and would like to learn more about our community and culture. If you would like to be a friend to an international student, read more about the Amigo program at <https://amis-inc.org/volunteers/amigo/>

The Food Pantry Report

The Food Pantry at the Suthers Center in Chamblee is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and we would love to have you join the team. Extra hands are always needed.

Calvin Court

The Missions committee heard from Georgia Gunter about a challenging situation dealing with hunger and food insecurity issues in our community. Georgia is working with the Jewish Family and Career Services which serves residents at Calvin Court. On recommendation from the Missions committee, session approved funding a pilot project which will operate from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017 which will allow volunteers to purchase \$800 of groceries per month to serve these clients. Calvin Court is a Presbyterian home for senior adults. The funds will come from the Food Pantry account.

Suthers Center

The Suthers Center operates a Thrift Shop in Chamblee, and the proceeds support an on-site Food Pantry and Emergency Assistance. Four churches - OPC (which founded the Food Pantry many years ago), St. Martin's Episcopal, Brookhaven Methodist, and Brookhaven Christian - work together to run it. Pat and Dwane Morrison, Barbara Balmer, Eleanor Davis, Genie Stringer, and the entire Patterson family are regular volunteers from our church. Thank you, all!

The Food Pantry gave out over 8,000 bags of food in 2016 to 1800 families (2600 people). Emergency Assistance helps 30 - 35 clients each week with Marta cards and utilities. They also give out vouchers for necessities, including clothing, in the Thrift Shop.

Suthers recently added free practical English classes for our Spanish-speaking-only mothers.

We are now adding a program to help the homeless that you will hear more about soon. The goal is to help our homeless clients get off the street through a partnership with The Atlanta Union Mission. With this program, one sponsor will pay for one night at the Mission for one person or family, with checks made out to Suthers Sponsorship. Donor names will never be given to anyone else, but results will be tracked.

Suthers is looking for volunteers to help with loading and unloading food, typically on Monday mornings.

Missions Committee at OPC

Mission and outreach are central to our identity at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church. Our mission programs are a way to serve those in need and also provide opportunities for us to share our time, talents, and resources. To find out more about how you can get involved in these missions, contact Emily Texter at emilytexter@bellsouth.net



Session Reorganized and Communication Plan Coming

Starting October 1, 2017, the Session will be organized to align with OPC's new mission statement to connect, grow, and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. 4 teams will take the place of the 8 committees, which will mean areas will be combined to increase collaboration. This will also mean that each Session elder will be working with a partner, there will be potentially less meetings for those who were previously involved in multiple committees, and hours needed for staff to resource all the areas will be reduced.

Here is the new organization:

	Connect Team	Grow Team	Serve Team	Vision Support Team
Areas	Evangelism Fellowship Preschool Liaison	Christian Education Stewardship Worship	Mission	Buildings & Grounds Finance & Admin
Elders	Steve Allison Bill Cox	Elizabeth Parks Brock Timmons	Jeff Morris Emily Texter	John Gunter Mike Lopata

A Communications Plan Work Group has also been formed in order to think about how and what we communicate. The members of this work group are Jennifer Kim, Cathy Poley, Alexandria Stephenson (staff), and Jihyun Oh (staff). We will begin our work with a small, targeted survey, as well as work on graphics and branding, with the goal of presenting a proposed Communications Plan and plans for implementation to the Session by the October meeting.

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