

# Crossings

April, 2015

## Maintenance Task Force Update

In February, the Session appointed a Maintenance Task Force to evaluate our building usage, maintenance costs, and financial situation. The goal is to finish this work by May and to make recommendations that can be phased in. The team has met several times and has had good, thorough discussion. We look forward to sharing our recommendations with Session and with the congregation.

One thing that has become clear in our conversations is an impressive history of shared support between the Preschool and the broader Church. When building repairs and improvements have been made, we have worked together to fix what is broken and develop and expand our facilities. We plan to continue to build on our past partnership as we minister to our community.

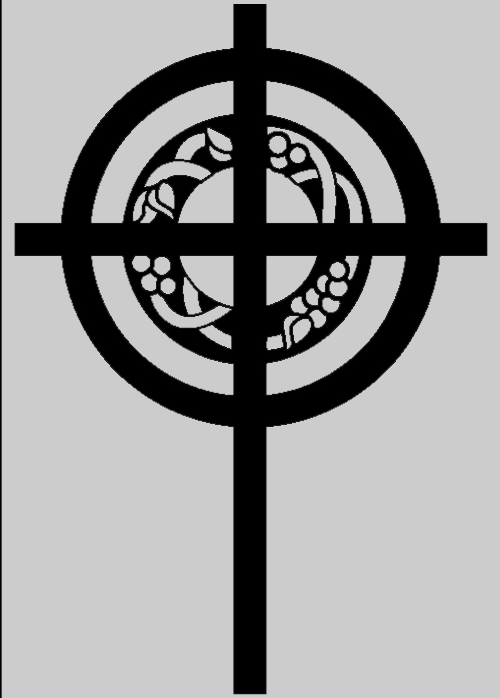
The Maintenance Task Force includes John Gunter, Cheryl Hartman, Mark Kelly, Barbara Landes, Amanda Marshall, Cortlandt Minnich, Beverly Moon, and Marthame Sanders.

## Chapel Task Force Update

For several months now, the Chapel Task Force has been looking at both floors of our chapel space and imagining what it might be that God desires we do with the area. As we shared in last month's Crossings, the Session has defined the purpose of future usage as daring, incarnational, evangelistic, bridge-building, flexible, quality, maximized, and budget-building. These guidelines have been helpful as we have dreamed of what is possible. We expect to make recommendations to Session at the May meeting, and will look forward to sharing those with our community.

In the meantime, we are asking for ideas and suggestions from the Church, Preschool, and Brookhaven communities. One such opportunity will be on Sunday, May 3, following worship when the chapel will be open. Other opportunities will follow.

The Chapel Task Force includes Jeff Chance, Bill Cox, Cheryl Hartman, Tim Hsu, Amanda Marshall, Beverly Moon, Marthame Sanders, and Emily Texter.



## What's Inside:

- *Prayer List (page 2)*
- *Calendar (page 3)*
- *Stewardship (page 4)*
- *Evangelism (page 4)*
- *Preschool News (page 5)*
- *Finances (page 5)*

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastoral

The Rev. Marthame Sanders  
*Pastor/Head of Staff*  
marthame@opcbrookhaven.org

The Rev. Dr. Linda Hawthorne  
*Parish Associate*

Program and Support  
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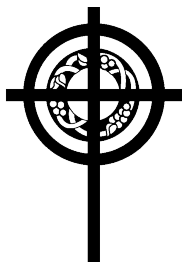
Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. Dr. Fitzhugh Legerton

Ministers  
All Members of OPC

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45am Sunday School  
11 am Worship

*Next Deadline*  
May 20, 2015



[www.opcbrookhaven.org](http://www.opcbrookhaven.org)

The community is our congregation.

## CLERK'S CORNER

Mary Ann Hawthorne

The Session conducted its monthly meeting as part of its retreat on Saturday, April 18. Among its actions were to:

- Approve unpaid leave for Tim Hsu (June 14-July 1) to participate in Georgia Tech's Europe Choral Program
- Move worship in June and July to 10am and serve communion each of those Sundays
- Hold one or two worship services in the chapel (a final determination has not been made when/if these services will occur)
- Appoint Jean Cox to pull together a proposal for kitchen renovations to come from Capital Campaign funds; recommended team members are Cindy Alexander, Ruth Anderson, Amy Chance, John Gunter, Lisa Kelly, Chris Moon, and Emily Texter (any construction will be subject to Session approval)
- Approve a provisional budget through May 31
- Approve a three-step plan to address the budget deficit by:
  1. Committees suggesting cuts to their area (except Mission)
  2. Hosting a congregational forum on April 26, 2015
  3. Returning for deliberation at the May 17, 2015 meeting

*Session meetings are open meetings and are normally held the third Sunday of the month.*

## DEACONS

## People in Our Prayers

Gene Pelham (Judy's family); Pat Morrison; Cathy Poley; Corine Coning (Sharon Hall's friend); Cameron Lester; Fr. John Sullivan (OLA); Marilyn Moon, Lou Pickle, Mary Beth Smith (Regan Stanfield's family and friends); Kenneth Morrison (Pat's family); Jarrod Finn; Dan Carey; Terri Leslie (Jan Thomas' friend); Meredith Snellings; Mary Tipton Carter; Dona Dutton; Mick Crouse (Cheryl Hartman's friend); Angela Olsen (Kristi Stephenson's step-sister); Paul Poley, Debbie Smith (Mike Poley's family); Ken Wilkerson (Heather Bogle's friend); Randy Petty; Joe & Stacey Yeager; Jim & Anna Coulter; Betty Dalziel; Patricia Livingston (Georgia Gunter's cousin); Sam Whitfield, Georgia Lozoff, Martha Zea, Roland Greene (Steve Greene's friends and family); Don Levine (Balmers' friend); Mark Heimiller (Kelly Norris' nephew); Bill Bertolet (Donna Poseidon's father); Mallory Kate (Brian Pierce's friend); Horace Cox (Bill's father); Mary Smith; Dennard Family; Merritt Pearson (Jan Thomas' friend); Roberta DaVia; Lee Marley; Mary Shanks; Jean Williams; Diane Powell; Tyron Mackall (Samantha Cassidy's friend); Bill Coble; Grant Gossling (Rachel Isley's family); Kit Young, Julie Bleier, Barbara Pinson, Christopher Gummere, Judy McKinley (Genie Stringer's friends); Chris and Dakota Matthews (John Gunter's family); Joe Hensley (JoAnn Kearns' father); Bob Allison (Steve's father); Jerry Crouse and Sophie Essex (Victoria Weaver's friends); Lee Andrews (Elizabeth Sanders' mother); Doug Hill (Timmons' family); Tyler Harmon (Mary Ann Hawthorne's friends); Brian Delinski; Dave Kelley (Diane Leyburn's cousin); Jeff & Erin Schneider, Lawrence Docherty (Betty Dalziel's friends and family); John Suder; Steve Cunningham (Beth's brother); Mary Ratliff; Dolly Azar (Coulter's friend); Jane Newton (Kyle's family); Frances Bockman (Marthame Sanders' cousin); Rachel Galotti; Al Paul; Hilde Hildebrandt (Chris Hagler's mother); Mary Zumot; Martha Stoy; Florence and Helen Ottah Aleh (Florence's mother); friends at Journey Night Shelter; Penny Hill (Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta); Heath Rada (Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)).

## In Memoriam

**Barbara Brooks**  
(Mike Poley's aunt)

**Joel Shankle**  
(The Leonards' family)

**Ed Fisher**  
(Joy Fisher's family)

**Betty Jo Montgomery**  
(Lauren Wright Pittman's family)

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

# Calendar: May, 2015



## STEWARDS SERVING

### May 3:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **usher/greeters:** Cindy Alexander, Ruth Anderson; **usher/counters:** Donna Poseidon, Jim Anderson; **sound/open:** Jesse Rappole; **PowerPoint:** Tamara Lopata; **nursery:** Geoff Stephenson.

### May 10:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Jeff Chance; **usher/greeters:** Carol Moore, Cortlandt Minnich; **usher/counters:** Nancy Minnich, Adam Weaver; **sound/open:** Bill Cox; **refreshments:** Cindy Alexander; **PowerPoint:** Samantha Servidio; **nursery:** Gabby Paterson.

### May 17:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Linda Morris; **usher/greeters:** Emily & Thomas Paterson, Pat Morrison; **usher/counters:** Mary Lee Williams, Diane Powell; **sound/open:** Jean Cox; **refreshments:** Kristi Stephenson; **PowerPoint:** Ramsay Sanders; **nursery:** Steve Allison.

### May 24, Pentecost Sunday:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Georgia Gunter; **usher/greeters:** Jean Cox, Ric Paterson; **usher/counters:** Mary Ann Hawthorne, Victoria Weaver; **sound/open:** Jesse Rappole; **refreshments:** Ruth Anderson; **PowerPoint:** Christopher Soltis; **nursery:** Debbie O'Donnell.

### May 31, Trinity Sunday:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Eleanor Timmons; **usher/greeters:** Charles Hawthorne, Eleanor Davis; **usher/counters:** Paul Reynolds, Donna Poseidon; **sound/open:** \_\_\_\_\_; **refreshments:** Chris & Deborah O'Donnell; **PowerPoint:** Brian Pierce; **nursery:** Gabby Paterson.

### June 7, 10am:

**music:** Tim Hsu; Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Weston Manders; **usher/greeters:** Steve Greene, Ric Paterson; **usher/counters:** Eka Cox, Brandon Cassidy; **sound/open:** Adam Weaver; **refreshments:** Julia Berry; **PowerPoint:** Samantha Servidio; **nursery:** Rachel Paterson.

## Regular Meetings

(except when noted elsewhere)

### Weekly

#### Sundays:

9:00- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages  
10:00am Worship

#### Tuesdays:

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

#### Wednesdays:

5:15pm Centering Prayer (Parlor)  
6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

#### Fridays:

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

### Monthly

Third Sundays after Worship  
Session Meeting

#### Fourth Saturdays

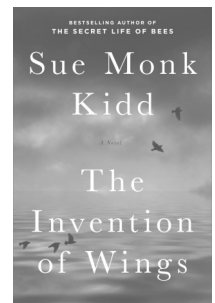
OPC Serves Dinner at Journey

## FELLOWSHIP

Jean Cox

## Book Club

The book club will meet Saturday, May 16, at 1pm at Marilyn Peatman's house. We will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.



## Crossings Submissions

Do you have something for the monthly *Crossings* newsletter? Send it to [crossings@opcbrookhaven.org](mailto:crossings@opcbrookhaven.org) by the 20th of each month.

## STEWARDSHIP

Cindy Alexander

### L'Arche

It started with an act of kindness.

In 1964, Jean Vanier invited two men with developmental disabilities to share a house



near Paris. It was a life-changing move for the Canadian philosopher that would, over time, radically improve the lives of many others.

Vanier had been a spiritual seeker most of his life, but the major turning point came a year earlier when he visited people with disabilities who were living in psychiatric hospitals and other institutions. One of them reportedly asked him, "Will you be my friend?"

Though the two men, Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux, had been institutionalized and essentially shunned by the world, Vanier reached out in recognition of their shared humanity. That first leap would serve as the spark for *L'Arche Internationale*, today a global network of residential communities in which people with and without disabilities share their lives.

This year, in honor of Vanier's five decades of advocacy for people with disabilities, he is being named the 2015 recipient of the Templeton Prize, given annually to a person who "has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works."

It started with an act of kindness... "Yes, I will be your friend."

Thank you for all the acts of kindness you perform, for our church, for our neighborhood, for our world.

## EVANGELISM

Donna Poseidon

### Engage Small Groups

Have you noticed the activity on Sunday mornings? How about Sunday afternoons, Tuesday evenings, and Thursdays? That's the "buzz" of more than fifty people engaged in our congregation-wide small group program.

The seven-week Engage program started after Easter and continues through the end of the month of May. We anticipated it would be a time for study, discussion, prayer and fellowship. It has indeed been this. In addition, participants have discovered things about themselves, their faith, and about each other. As one participant shared, "I am confident talking about what I believe...but I've never really talked about what Jesus means to me."

We have also learned to appreciate the special leadership gifts many of our OPC members have, and are especially grateful for the time and talent of our group facilitators: Debra Hogan, Eleanor Timmons, Elizabeth Parks, Emily Texter, Jeff Morris, Linda Haw-



thorne, Mike Poley, Rachel Paterson, Ric Paterson, and Steve Allison.

The Evangelism team (Steve Allison, Brandon Cassidy, Elizabeth Parks, Donna Poseidon) and any of the Engage leaders welcome the opportunity to discuss the program further. Get engaged!

## PRESCHOOL

### Preschool Sunday

Come and celebrate our Preschool Ministry on Sunday, May 3! Food and refreshments to follow on the front lawn (weather permitting).

### Preschool Auction

On Saturday, May 16, at 7pm, our Preschool is hosting a silent auction and raffle to benefit the preschool! We have fabulous items and baskets to bid on, including Disney tickets for four, a lake house getaway, and tickets to many sites throughout Atlanta, among other prizes. More information to follow soon!

### Accredited with Quality!

Congratulations to our Preschool for achieving the highest level of accreditation that the Georgia Accrediting Commission offers: "Accredited with Quality"!

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Bill Cox

### Church Work Day

Our monthly church work day will be Saturday, May 9. Depending on needs and weather, we will be working on various projects inside and outside. Any and all skill levels welcome (including "none")!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kristi Stephenson

### Welcome, Edyie!

We welcome Edyie DaVia into membership at Oglethorpe Presbyterian! Originally from San Francisco, Edyie has lived in Brookhaven for twenty years. She currently works as a manager at the Starbucks in Cherokee Plaza and "loves this community!"

## FINANCE

Charles Hawthorne

### Financial Summary

		<u>Mar-15</u>	<u>YTD 2015</u>	<u>YTD 2014</u>	<u>change</u>
Receipts	\$	38,351	86,426	80,797	5,629
Expenditures		<u>38,312</u>	<u>91,422</u>	<u>83,112</u>	<u>8,310</u>
Surplus/(deficit)		39	(4,996)	(2,315)	(2,681)
Cash increase/ (decrease)		(13,754)	(7,676)	66,869	(74,545)
Beginning bank balance		164,146	158,067	148,678	9,389
Ending bank balance		150,391	150,391	215,547	(65,156)
Loan balance	\$	<u>40,110</u>	<u>40,110</u>	<u>70,643</u>	<u>(30,532)</u>

- Revenue for the first quarter of 2015 vs. 2014 is up \$5,600.
- Expenses, primarily related to maintenance, are up for the quarter, so the result is a deficit of \$5,000.
- The pledged offering income for January, February, and March was below budget.
- The increase in revenue for the quarter was primarily due to mind the gap matching fund contributions.
- Receipts and expenditures do not include Capital Campaign but bank balance does.

*OPC has an "open book" financial policy: for more information, contact the Treasurer, Barbara Landes at 404-931-3897.*

## 2015 Budget Conversations

As many of you know, our 2015 budgeting process began with an anticipated deficit. The good news is that, with characteristic generosity, our community has moved the needle in the right direction! What was once a \$65,000 gap became \$50,000; and with our matching gift challenge, this gap narrowed even closer to \$26,000. Add to this that we are maintaining a healthy three-month operating reserve, and this is good news.

The challenge remains. As a partial response, Session has proposed trimming an additional \$8500 from the budget. On Sunday, April 26, Session hosted a congregational forum to solicit wisdom and counsel from our community on how best to balance our budget. Though Presbyterian polity is clear that financial decisions are entrusted to the Session, your elders felt that such a forum was appropriate given our commitment to transparency.

We are grateful to those of you who attended for your valuable wisdom and suggestions, including ways to further decrease spending and increase our “income”. One important point: we are not planning to decrease our Mission giving at all. Not only is this principle important to who we are at Oglethorpe Presbyterian; it is important to who we are as followers of Jesus.

If you were not able to attend and would like to get more information or provide feedback, please speak to any of our elders (below). We take your input very seriously. Session will continue discernment in this process at our May meeting, moving forward into what God has in store for us. Elders: Cindy Alexander, Bill Cox, Jean Cox, Charles Hawthorne, Mary Ann Hawthorne (Clerk), Jeff Morris, Donna Poseidon, Marthame Sanders (Moderator), Emily Texter. Rotating off: Cortlandt Minnich and Kristi Stephenson. Rotating on: Steve Allison and Amy Bonecutter.



Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church  
Sunday School for All Ages: 9:45 am • Worship: 11am  
404.233.5469 • [www.opcbrookhaven.org](http://www.opcbrookhaven.org) • [info@opcbrookhaven.org](mailto: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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