

# Crossings

September, 2015

## Thank You Sunday! September 13

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17*

Our denomination's *Book of Order* reminds us that fellowship is crucial to ministry. Our worshiping, learning, and serving are never done in isolation, but always as part of the body of believers. This spirit of connectedness (referred to as *koinonia* in the New Testament) is of inestimable worth, as it feeds and sustains every other part of our church life.

On Sunday, September 13, the Deacons and the Stewardship Committee will co-host a pot luck luncheon after worship to thank our community for all the time, talent, and treasure you share with us and those we serve. It takes a *koinonia* to do all that we do: make Sunday morning run smoothly, support the care work of the deacons, provide our many ministries of compassion to the broader community...the list goes on and on.

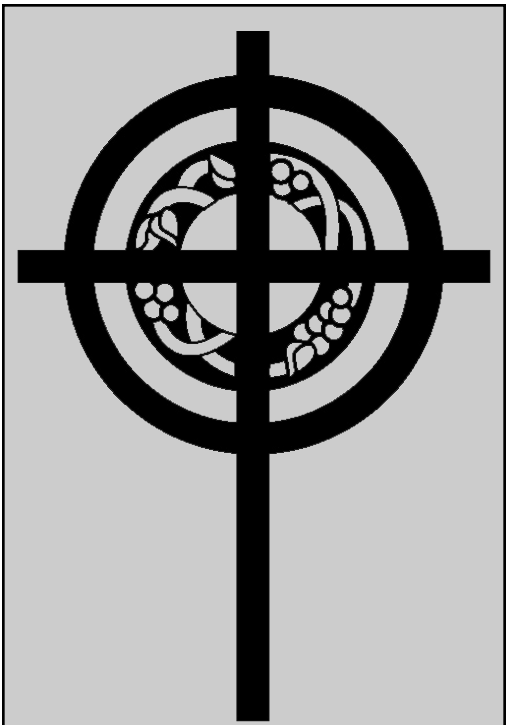
Please bring a salad or desert to share at lunch along with our chicken and pork BBQ main course.

During worship, we will also commission our Sunday School teachers. These dedicated individuals make our Christian Education program possible for all ages. And though Sunday School is already back in full swing, it is an important moment to recognize this ministry and all it brings!

If you are looking for ways to get involved in ministry here at Oglethorpe Presbyterian, please contact the church office: 404.233.5469, [office@opcbrookhaven.org](mailto:office@opcbrookhaven.org).

### Additional Service Opportunity

The deacons are also asking for people to please bring a frozen meal on September 13 to stock our freezer. This helps us by having food on hand so that we can deliver meals to those in our community who may need it.



### What's Inside:

- *Prayer List (page 2)*
- *Calendar (page 3)*
- *Budget Task Force Report (page 5)*
- *Mission News (page 5)*

## CHURCH STAFF

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

Rebekah Carpenter  
*Student Pastor*  
rebekah@opcbrookhaven.org

The Rev. Dr. Linda Hawthorne  
*Parish Associate*

**Program and Support**  
Cheryl Hartman, C.C.E.  
*Office Manager*  
*Director of Christian Education*  
ext. 221  
cheryl@opcbrookhaven.org

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

Alexandria Stephenson  
*Communications Assistant*  
alexandria@opcbrookhaven.org

Francisco Flores  
*Sexton*

Preschool  
404.233.5479

Beverly Moon  
*Director*  
beverly@oppbrookhaven.org

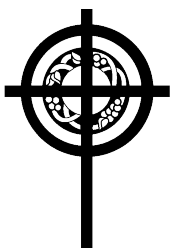
Lynnette Kachel  
*Assistant Director*  
lynnette@oppbrookhaven.org

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

**Ministers**  
All Members of OPC

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
9:45am Sunday School  
11 am Worship

*Next Deadline*  
September 20, 2015



www.opcbrookhaven.org  
The community is our congregation.

## CLERK'S CORNER

Mary Ann Hawthorne

The Session conducted its monthly meeting on Saturday, August 16. Among its actions were to:

- Authorize the baptism of Charlotte Michelle Phillips on Sunday August 23, 2015
- Approve the curricula and teachers for Sunday School
- Appoint the After School Formation Team to further explore the feasibility of an After School Program. Team members include Cindy Alexander, Margy Jones, and Mark Kelly. Resource members include: Bill Cox, Cheryl Hartman, and Lynnette Kachel.

- Approve the budget through the end of 2015.
- Approve the Budget Task Force recommendations, including:
  - A special ask to cover the cost of a floor buffer (approximately \$3,000)
  - Each committee will refine their budget for the remainder of 2015 and for 2016
  - Session will prepare two budgets for 2016: one status quo, one austerity
  - We will hold a Finance Town Hall on Sunday, October 25, following worship
  - Mission giving is exempt from any proposed reductions for 2015 or 2016

*Session meetings are open meetings and are usually held the third Sunday of each month following worship.*

*Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church has an "open book" policy. To see financial reports or Session minutes, please contact the church office.*

## DEACONS

### People in Our Prayers

Billy Hawthorne (Charles' family); Margie Garrett; Jung Soon Park (John's mother); Karen Jenkins (Linda Jones' family); Francisco Flores; Dona and Bob Dutton; Matthew St. Fleur; Ann Campbell; Roberta DaVia; Betty Sanders; Tony Zacek (Amy Chance's father); Janet Larry (Susannah Morris Larry's family); Krissie Weeks (Marianne Martin's sister); Jeannie Jamieson (Elizabeth Parks' family); First Presbyterian, Americus (Elizabeth Parks' home church); Cathy Poley; Corine Coning (Sharon Hall's friend); Cameron Lester; Jarrod Finn; Mary Doras, Merritt Pearson, Terri Leslie (Jan Thomas' friends); Mick Crouse (Cheryl Hartman's friend); Angela Olsen (Kristi Stephenson's family); Paul Poley, Debbie Smith (Mike Poley's family); Ken Wilkerson (Heather Bogle's friend); Jim & Anna Coulter; Betty Dalziel; George Konow, Patricia Livingston (Georgia Gunter's family); Robert Dosh, Sam Whitfield, Georgia Lozoff, Martha Zea, Roland Greene (Steve Greene's friends and family); Don Levine (Balmers' friend); Mark Heimiller (Kelly Norris' family); Mallory Kate (Brian Pierce's friend); Horace Cox (Bill's father); Mary Smith; Lee Marley; Mary Shanks; Jean Williams; Tyron Mackall (Samantha Cassidy's friend); Bill Coble; Grant Gossling (Rachel Isley's family); Connie Stoker, Roger Mudd, Kit Young, Julie Bleier, Barbara Pinson, Christopher Gummere, Judy McKinley (Genie Stringer's friends & family); Chris and Dakota Matthews (John Gunter's family); Phil Lord, Sophie Essex (Victoria Weaver's friends and family); Lee Andrews (Elizabeth Sanders' mother); Doug Hill (Timmons' family); Tyler Harmon (Mary Ann Hawthorne's friend); Brian Delinski; Dave Kelley (Diane Leyburn's family); Jeff & Erin Schneider, Lawrence Docherty (Betty Dalziel's friends and family); John Suder; Mary Ratliff; Dolly Azar (Coulter's friend); Jane Newton (Kyle's family); 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

**Margaret Pearson**  
(Pat Morrison's friend)

**Iris Wallace**  
(Larua Walker Frantz's aunt)

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

# Calendar: June, 2015



## STEWARDS SERVING

**September 6, 11am:**

**music:** Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** \_\_\_\_\_; **usher/greeters:** Steve Greene, Jennifer Soltis; **usher/counters:** Eka Cox, Brandon Cassidy; **sound/open:** Adam Weaver; **refreshments:** Lisa Kelly; **PowerPoint:** Kim Crocker; **nursery:** Deborah O'Donnell.

**September 13, 11am:**

**music:** Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Elizabeth Sanders; **usher/greeters:** Kelly Norris, Paul Reynolds; **usher/counters:** Jardon Bouska, \_\_\_\_\_; **sound/open:** Jean Cox; **refreshments:** Julia Berry; **PowerPoint:** Mary Ann Hawthorne; **nursery:** Kristi Stephenson.

**September 20, 11am:**

**music:** Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Donna Poseidon; **usher/greeters:** Bill Balmer, Emily Texter; **usher/counters:** Carl Texter, Margy Jones; **sound/open:** Mark Kelly; **refreshments:** \_\_\_\_\_; **PowerPoint:** Steve Allison; **nursery:** Deborah O'Donnell.

**September 27, 11am:**

**music:** Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Reyn Langwell; **usher/greeters:** Linda Morris, Jeff Morris; **usher/counters:** Bill Cox, Georgia Gunter; **sound/open:** Geoff Stephenson; **refreshments:** Mary Ann Hawthorne; **PowerPoint:** Mike Poley; **nursery:** Jennifer Soltis.

**October 4, 11am:**

**music:** Tim Hsu, Chancel Choir; **liturgist:** Mary Jones; **usher/greeters:** Ruth Walker, Paul Reynolds; **usher/counters:** Eleanor Timmons, Christopher Soltis; **sound/open:** Mike Lopata; **refreshments:** Amy Chance; **PowerPoint:** \_\_\_\_\_; **nursery:** Rachel Paterson.

## Sunday Stewards

Will you pitch in to keep Sunday mornings running smoothly? Contact the church office and we will sign you up for your choice of Sunday stewards' roles: [office@opcbrookhaven.org](mailto:office@opcbrookhaven.org), 404.233.5469.

## Regular Meetings

(except when noted elsewhere)

### Weekly

**Sundays:**

9:00- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages  
9:45 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)  
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)

**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

## Notable Notes

### Bookkeeping Transition

We're currently in a brief time of transition with our bookkeeping. Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Barbara Landes.

### Additional Workday

On Saturday, August 29, we will finish renovations in the Halfway Room, do some touch-up painting, and continue grounds maintenance in preparation for the start of Preschool.

## 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.

## FELLOWSHIP

Jean Cox

### Book Club Schedule

Date	Title/Author/ Length/(Non-)Fiction	Facilitator	Hostess
September 14	<i>South of Broad</i> Pat Conroy	Linda Morris/Group	Donna Poseidon
October 12	<i>The Paris Wife</i> Paula McLain	Bonnie Holler	Bonnie Holler
November 9	<i>The Girl on the Train</i> Paula Hawkins	Margy Jones	
December 14	<i>Rich's: A Southern Institution</i> Jeff Clemmons	Mary Smith	Margy Jones
January 16th (Saturday at 1pm)	<i>Go Set a Watchman</i> Harper Lee	Marilyn Peatman	Marilyn Peatman
February 8	<i>The Meaning of Existence</i> Edward O Wilson	Eleanor Timmons	Mary Ann Hawthorne
March 14	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> Anthony Doerr	Georgia Gunter	Libba Sweeney
April 11	<i>The Devil in the White City</i> Erik Larsen	Donna Poseidon	Eleanor Timmons
May 9	<i>A Spool of Blue Thread</i> Anne Tyler		Mary Smith
June 13	<i>The Nightingale</i> Kristin Hannah		Linda Morris
July 11	<i>The Movement of Stars</i> Amy Brill	Linda Morris	Georgia Gunter
August 8	<i>Lila</i> Marilynne Robinson	Earline Willcott	

## ADMINISTRATION

Charles Hawthorne

### Welcome, Rebekah Carpenter

We welcome Rebekah Carpenter as our Student Pastor for the 2015-2016 program year! Rebekah's first Sunday will be Sunday, September 6.

Rebekah is a second year student at Columbia Theological Seminary and plans to use her experience and calling in leadership and organizational development, small group leadership, music and liturgical drama and pastoral care to help the local church grow and expand its membership and its outreach ministries.



She received her B.A. in music and theatre from Mars Hill College and her M.A. in Psychology and Organizational Development from the University of West Georgia. Prior to seminary, she worked with The Community Foundation of West Georgia.

## EVANGELISM

Donna Poseidon

### Movie Night Saturday, September 12

On Saturday, September 12, at 6:30pm, we will screen *Big Hero 6* in our sanctuary. This family-friendly event, a joint effort between the church and Preschool, is a terrific opportunity to invite neighbors and friends for joyful, free evening. Popcorn is available, or bring your own refreshments.



### Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 25

Mark your calendars for this community favorite! Plan on decorating your car's trunk and handing out treats. Invite family, neighbors and friends to come to our trick-or-treat alternative. More information in October.

Plan to be a part of the fun as we demonstrate that the Community is our Congregation!

## ADMINISTRATION

Charles Hawthorne

# Our Financial Picture and Planning

While there is much to celebrate in our financial outlook - two years of balanced budgets, increased stewardship contributions, a successful capital campaign - your Session leadership continues to work to communicate our situation with candor and transparency:

- It is likely that we will finish 2015 with a deficit. Our best guess, at this point, is \$20,000. Rather than come back to the congregation to ask for increased pledges, we will use our reserves. Since this is a short-term solution at best, each committee is looking to trim spending for 2015 and 2016.
- Our Mission giving will not be affected. These ministries of service are central to who we are, so our mission budget will be intact for 2015 and 2016.
- We are looking to improve our communications with our budget, spending, and the impact our giving has on our immediate and broader community.
- Our Stewardship campaign will offer two budget possibilities: one to maintain our ministry, and one to keep our reserves intact.
- We will have regular opportunities for community conversation around various ministries. Our next opportunity will be a Financial Town Hall meeting on Sunday, October 25, following worship.
- We have two specific asks in 2015. The first is to help cover the unexpected cost of a floor buffer; the second is our usual end of the year request.
- As our Capital Campaign draws to a close, we will ask those who have contributed to consider continuing to give in 2016, whether by rolling that into your annual gift or to a specific maintenance fund.

One more note: it has taken longer than expected to report all of this back to you. This is partially due to unanticipated transitions in our bookkeeping contracts. We are resolving this in short order so we can continue to keep you informed. Thank you for your patience.

Above all, we thank God for your generosity and support. Our blessings are many, and our opportunities to share them are a true gift!

## MISSION

Emily Texter

### Get Involved

Mission and outreach are central to our identity and are a great way to serve and share our time, talents, and resources. The Mission Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. To find out more about how you can get involved, contact Emily Texter at [emilytexter@bellsouth.net](mailto:emilytexter@bellsouth.net).

### Bargain Shop

The next Bargain Shop Sale will be November 6-7. Bring donated household items and Christmas decorations Nov. 1-5. Volunteers are needed to set up and staff the sale. We are also looking for vendors who might want to sell their wares as well.

### Thornwell Home for Children

Pat Morrison reports that we have collected over 1,059 Box Tops for Education and 699 points from Campbell Soup Labels to benefit Thornwell Home! Add yours to the envelope on the hall bulletin board.

### AMIS

Jean Cox and Emily Texter represented us at the orientation for the international students at Oglethorpe University. As many as 70% of international students never enter an American home. AMIS, the Atlanta Ministry of International Students, is an organization which promotes friendships and peace, and will match international college students with members and friends. Sign up at <http://amis-inc.org/volunteers/amigo/>

AMIS' Welcome Reception will be Sunday, October 11, at Georgia Tech from 3-5pm in the Student Center Ballroom. The Kennesaw State University Jazz Trio will perform. This free, public event is a great way to make friends with international college students. For more details, see <http://amis-inc.org/category/events/>

### Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday and Friday morning from 10am-12pm at the Suthers Center in Chamblee. Contact Linda Jones for more information.

# Sunday School for All Ages

Christian Education for all ages happens on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45am.

We have two offerings for Adults:

- The Present Word Bible Study class will continue to meet in the library, led by a wonderful team: Bill Balmer, Rebekah Carpenter (student pastor), Linda Hawthorne, Debra Hogan, Michael Poley, Marthame Sanders, and Eleanor Timmons.
- The Gathering Class meets in the room across from the church office and discusses how our faith and current events interact with one another. This class is led by Steve Allison and Elizabeth Sanders.

We have two classrooms for children:

- Children ages 3-6 meet in the first room on the left on the Sanctuary level hallway. Barbara Balmer, Kelly Norris and Gabby Paterson are the teachers.
- Our children who are aged 7 and up meet in the last room down the hall on the left. This group is led by Jennifer Sterner Allison, Donna Poseidon, Marissa Lopata and Isabel Crocker.

Debbie O'Donnell, Chris and Jen Soltis are substitutes for these classes.

Our nursery is under the leadership of Chantal Jordan and a collection of volunteers again this year.

We appreciate the work of all these people dedicated to helping us nurture our children in faith!



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*

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church  
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 Atlanta, Georgia 30319