

The Methodist Oaks

The past year has been one of progress, preparation and change as The Methodist Oaks moves into new ministries in keeping with the mission of a Faith-Based Community. While the community has grown significantly due to successful marketing throughout the state, we are equally excited to have been one of only 15 entities in the United States to receive a \$500,000.00 Rural PACE Startup Grant. The Oaks is the only Continuing Care Retirement Community and one of only two Faith-Based entities to receive a grant. The PACE program works with frail elderly who are qualified for Medicaid and who are certified eligible for nursing home care. PACE keeps the participants at home through managing care and a day care center with a medical clinic. Palmetto Senior Care in Columbia is the other PACE site in South Carolina. The Board of The Oaks has challenged itself and the staff to find ways to assist seniors in the surrounding counties. The PACE program is the first. Others are to come.

Currently, The Oaks is working to manage the growth coming in the future in balance with effective stewardship of our natural setting. Home to five (5) identified Eco Systems including the Edisto River, a 125 acre Tupelo Swamp, a geologically significant Bluff area, at least four (4) Carolina Bays and more than 700 acres of Southern Plantation as well as deer, fox squirrels, and wild turkeys, we learn more each day about how special our site is and how important it is for us to plan properly. Yes we will grow, but we will do so responsibly.

We are also investigating the potential for alternate sources of power and hot water. Working with various universities and environmental groups, we are planning for the use of solar and possibly wind power in our future. Our goal is to be as self sufficient as we can, making sure that our stewardship of resources carries us into the future.

Building on the natural beauty we enjoy, we have re-branded The Oaks, changing the logo and the tag line used for advertising and marketing pieces. While remaining The Methodist Oaks, our new brand is The Oaks. The Oaks, a United Methodist Community identifies more accurately our role as more than a retirement community. The Oaks is the location of one of the Aldersgate Special Needs Homes being built. The Oaks is the home of a 6,000 foot interpretive nature trail that will be open to schools and special groups as well as the residents of the community. The Oaks is where bridge tournaments for surrounding counties' players are held. It is where our Wellness Center and Heated Pool will be made available to seniors in the area. The Oaks is a place alive with learning, wellness, activities, dances, mission opportunities, Bible Studies, etc. Here at The Oaks we say, "Celebrating Life is in Our NATURE." Check out our new web site at www.theoakssc.com.

We are embarking on a capital campaign to expand our Wellness Center and Campus Life Center to accommodate the increasing demand as we grow our community. The initial thrust is the newly opened heated pool which was built primarily with donations. Now, we look forward to wrapping the new Campus Life/ Wellness Center around the pool.

In closing, we thank the South Carolina Conference for the continued support to Senior Communities of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina. Each year, The Oaks adds to the amount given in the Apportionments, some \$600,000.00 additional out of operating revenues to provide assistance for those residents who have, "outlived their resources." We give glory to God that we are able to be in ministry and mission in our work here at The Oaks. From staff, residents and resident families, and the Board, we say God Bless and thank you.

*Mrs. June Bunch, Chair
The Methodist Oaks Board of Trustees
The Reverend James R. McGee
CEO/President*