



From Your Pastor....

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:26–29)

SOPC is embarking on some new adventures this fall that will enable us all to carry the joy of summer into the beauty of fall through being a child of Christ. Throughout the LEAF this August you will find many ways of plugging in, making new friends, and being the church God is calling us to be- together. SOPC is living into the concept of ‘breaking down walls’ through all these new adventures.

It is truth that Jesus came to break down the walls that divide us. God’s grace gives us a way to escape “us and them” thinking. We often view grace as something that affects our relationship with God, but it also affects our relationship with other people. It brings peace between us and our neighbors even if we have different worldviews. Our search this year at SOPC is to be about breaking down this wall of division and instead embracing journeys of faith. How will you be a part of this growth?

Pastor Jana

Congregational Care

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

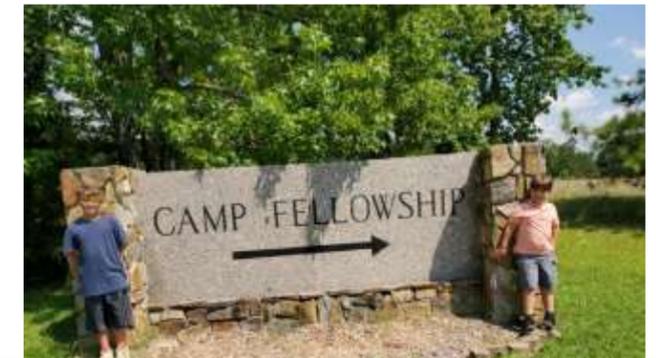
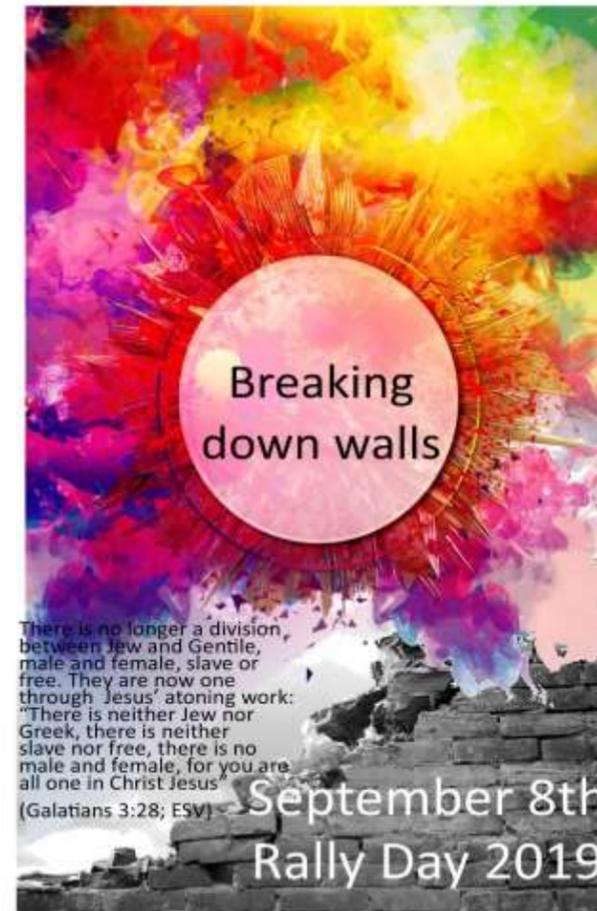
Have you heard the news about Congregational Care? As a new initiative, SOPC is beginning a shepherding program to assist in congregational care! To be a shepherd, one expresses love and concern for the sheep in their care, sometimes working long hours to make sure the sheep have enough food, water, and are all present and accounted for in the pasture. Your elders are your shepherds this year of 2019. When they call to check in on you, they are working to build better relationships and maintain closer contact. They are working as the hands and feet of Christ to know and understand how SOPC can be more inclusive and a better place to experience the love of God. Pastors Jana, Alice and Barry will be overseeing the work of these shepherds and of course should you need anything, we are here with and for you!



Did You Know?

Did you know that there is a group, active in our community, that listens to God’s call in justice? Midlands Organized Response for Equity and Justice, or MORE Justice, is an interfaith coalition of more than 30 local congregations diverse in faith tradition, race, and socioeconomics. The congregations have come together to more fully live into their biblical mandate to “do justice” and tackle major community-wide problems at the root. To date, MORE Justice has worked on issues of education, mental health and affordable housing. Learn more at morejusticecolumbia.org!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



What our children had to say about **Camp Fellowship...**

“I miss my Camp Fellowship friends so much”...Sawyer Creighton

“It was wonderful, cool and fun...”
Eli Bundrick



As we move into the coming year, join us as we explore the new events, small groups, and all of the amazing activities happening in the 2020 church year. Come hungry for breakfast, fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.



Our youth and chaperones are traveling to Charleston for a mission trip August 4-9. Please be in prayer for them as they travel and spread God’s love.

Building and Grounds

Building & Grounds Ministry has purchased lawn equipment and would like to thank the members of SOPC who have graciously donated towards the cost of the equipment. The purchase of this equipment was approved by Session at the July Session Meeting. Thank you to the following families: Guy San Fratello, Byron Dickson, Mark Wishart, Ben Smith, Sam White, John Whitfield, Ron Kesterson, Chris Laughter, Jack Noë, Ben Killian, Shelagh Wirth.

Thank you also to John Whitfield & Byron Dickson for their work on the new ramp in the west parking lot of the sanctuary. We hope the ramp will be complete in a couple of weeks for use by our members.

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry invites members to participate in the Seven Oaks Presbyterian Fall Supper Club. Groups of six will meet once a month in September, October, and November. The groups will be different each month. Please sign up or ask questions by phoning Molly Jackson at 798.3750 or emailing at mol-lyjackon803@gmail.com by Wednesday, August 21. A rotation of participants will be mailed by August 31.

On August 25th, we'll have a BBQ with all the trimmings in the pavilion at 6:00. Please sign up on the pew pads and come enjoy visiting with church friends and eating a delicious supper. In the narthex, on Aug. 11 and Aug. 18, we'll be selling Boston Butts that Jason Bundrick will barbeque and deliver the night of our CNS (Aug. 25).

We are starting up Ladies Lunch once a month in Sept. This activity has been on vacation for a while, but since several ladies have expressed interest, we look forward to offering this again. Watch for more information in the Leaf and Bulletins.

SOPC SMALL GROUPS

This Fall and Spring, SOPC is hosting a number and variety of small groups to facilitate meeting new faces and growing in faith. Session has been reading 'The Trellis and the Vine' by Tony Payne who describes small groups in a church as 'a shift from running programs to building people'. In small groups, leaders spring up from within the church and share their natural talents with the congregation. These folks form new relationships (even in old friends), new interests, and new faith perspectives. Not to mention that small groups are a non-threatening means of inviting friends who may be weary of church or faith into a community of support where grace can be seen. Isn't that part of our call, to love God and love our neighbor as we studied last week? In the coming weeks, we will highlight some of the small groups coming to your SOPC family. You are invited to find a new group to explore and invite a friend to go with you! Where two or more are gathered....

A small group is defined as 10-12 people with a common interest. Sometimes that interest is a common faith. Other times that interest is about welcoming the other or unchurched and showing how we live that faith. A small group looks to extend the love of God beyond the walls of the church to people that need to hear that love. If you are interested in heading a small group to explore in or outside of the church, speak with Kathy Keane or call the office! We would like to set a goal to have 60% of the congregation in a "new to you" small group this Fall. When you participate, you are asked to bring your +1...who do you know that needs this group for social and/or spiritual growth? Bring them and realize that the church is more than just who attends worship each Sunday! May God's grace abound in these small groups!

Fall Small Groups:

The Artists Way: Teacher Irene Dumas Tyson is leading students into creativity as our gift back to God.

Beth Moore: A young adult bible study to build faith together.

Grandma's House- Country Cooking for the Soul: A Sunday meal like Grandma made for those who long for community once a month.

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Singles over 60 will gather weekly for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth.

Singles Unite: Single parent? Got faith? Let's explore together!

Boot Camp Justice Group: What is the church's role in justice? During October we will explore what Justice means Biblically and in our lives.

Boot Camp New Testament Studies: Bootcamp will continue for all ages. Adults will be studying NT utilizing The Bible Project.

Sliante' Faith: Ever wondered why the monks explored with Beer making? This group will venture out and sample different locations, exploring faith in the world.

Trash to Treasure: You will learn how to reinvent one person's trash into beautiful treasures, saving the earth one item at a time!

Chair Yoga: Over 60 group, this is a MUST do! Learn to listen to your body and improve core strength!

Shepherding Team: Leaders of small groups get a one on one training in how we do this thing called evangelism and how to utilize our gifts for the Kingdom.

PW Circles: There are so many- haven't found the right one yet? Come Rally day to explore the options!

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Keeping your pledge up to date helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church. Last month's offering and the year-to-date information are shown below:

	GIVING	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE
June	\$ 34,277	\$ 39,946	(\$5,669)
YTD 2019	\$ 201,845	\$207,722	(\$5,877)

Total revenue for the first 6 months of the year (including other income in addition to pledges) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through June

Total Expenses through June

\$217,035

Expenses in excess of Revenues

(\$ 5,680)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Start planning NOW for the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women. If you start putting aside \$30/month now, you will have all the money you need for the largest gathering of women of the Presbyterian church. Mark your calendars and join me in St. Louis on August 5 to August 8, 2021!!!

Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember this trip for a long time!!!!



THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, emails, visits and food sent to me as I recovered from Hip Surgery at National Health Care. It is a great feeling to have a network of friends to act as a support network as I could not have survived & progressed as I did without one. It is also a blessing to have such a great Church as Seven Oaks providing the emotional support during the long "down" days & nights of my recovery and in helping to get me through to where I am today. I also could not have survived thru this ordeal without the Lord's help. Richard Brinkley

Dear Church Family,

I am so glad that y'all were able to share in my graduation celebrations. I appreciate all of the support and guidance that y'all have been able to give me over the past few years. I am very excited about all of the little gifts that I received to help prepare for college, and will think about SOPC every time I use one of them! Thank you all for helping make this occasion so special! I would like to thank SOPC and especially Michaela and Mr. Fred Holbrook for being there for me!
Jacob Schwartz



2 Paul Clamp
2 Guy San Fratello
3 Alice Odell
5 Jason Bundrick
8 Rusty Creighton
9 Sarah Drayton
9 Asher Mellitz
10 Jana Creighton
10 Vern Rogers
10 Ben Smith
13 John Jones
14 Luke Fant



14 Kitsie Miller
16 Sandra Johnson
18 Nan Foster
18 Charlotte Pilkington
18 Lucretia Seigler
19 Tate Fant
26 Barbara Schneider
30 Richard Brinkley
30 Maureen Clark
30 Martha Hallbick
30 Marion Watson-Wishart
30 Mark Wishart
31 Sarah Paschal

NEWS FROM YOUR SESSION

At its last stated meeting on July 15, 2019 your Session...

1. Reviewed Vitalization Survey, sections of evangelism and caring relationships. Discussed our determination at our session training that both sections of the survey will be enhanced by the addition of small groups into the life of SOPC.
2. Discussed and made suggestions for improving our approach to evangelism which will be collected and compiled for next meeting.
3. Discussed and made suggestions for maintaining and continuing to support caring relationships, our strength in the survey.
4. Heard reports on actions that have been taken on our Safety Report: i.e., fire extinguishers have been marked, walkie talkies are available for ushers in the sanctuary, we are searching for a place to put the Chin Church materials, and plans are being developed for evacuation of our buildings.
5. Learned that Shelagh Wirth and acting chair of building and grounds will be the liaison between the Session and all church groups.
6. Received the second part of the Administration Ministry Policy and Procedures as a first reading.
7. Called a congregational meeting for August 4, immediately after the worship service, to elect a trustee for the class of 2022.
8. Approved receiving a gift to pay for the addition of optical contacts for the new organ keyboard.
9. Approved a trial of removing the two half walls in the chancel area of the sanctuary in order to improve the sound quality in the sanctuary. These half walls were made to be removed and no cost is involved. This will be done when the new organ and the new sound system equipment are in place.
10. Approved Shelagh Wirth serving as our Elder-Commissioner for the August 13 meeting of Trinity Presbytery at Eastminister Presbyterian Church. All are invited to attend as we will learn from Mark Tidsworth about church growth into the future.
11. Approved the formation of an Endowment Committee comprised of Richard Brinkley, chairman; Byron Dickson, Frank Sheppard and Elizabeth Taylor.
12. Approved holding a Community Holiday Market on November 9th with the profits going to Debt Free in 3.
13. Approved the use of our buildings and/or grounds by Scout Troop 91 on August 24, 2019, from 8 am to 5 pm for work on merit badges, and for the Etowah Creek Scout District on June 14-19, 2020, from 3 to 9 pm for their Twilight Camp.
14. Approved Rev. Creighton's request to try small groups in various ways, with advertisement in Leaf, Bulletins and online.
15. Approved Building & Grounds' proposal to discontinue our lawn cutting part of our lawn care service and purchase our own lawnmower. The cost will be covered by donations. We will continue to use lawn care for trimming, edging, spraying weeds and fertilizing for the present time. Karl will cut the campus grass and Byron Dickson will cut the back acreage.
16. Received the first reading of the update of purposes and responsibilities of the Good News Ministry.
17. Approved the book "Preaching the Women of the Old Testament" by Lynn Japinga for use by the Brewing Faith Sunday School class.
18. Approved the book, "The Study of 1 Peter, 2 Peter and Jude" by N.T. Wright for use by the Fellowship Sunday School class.
19. Approved the use of Fellowship Hall for a small group by Jenny Fogle for a trial meal on a Sunday after worship.
20. At our called session meeting on July 7, Session voted to update the current Sanctuary sound system to enable us to pursue our Mission of Preaching the Gospel and Loving our neighbors. After sound testing in the sanctuary, this upgrade should dramatically improve auditory ability in those with hearing difficulties, as well as the persistent reverberations and feedback in the sanctuary. The sound system for the sanctuary will be installed by Sid Gattis Acoustical for \$17,222.44. Funds for this would come from a seed donation of \$4,500, \$3,000 from the Chin Church and from the building reserve fund.
Jim Wilhite, Clerk of Session

Session has heard your desires! As many of you know, we have had difficulties with the sound system over the last year. SOPC pastors, guest preachers, VBS, Chin church, and your ears have all been able to discern that things just aren't the way they should be to spread the Word of God. After multiple interviews with sound specialists, 'auditioning' sound equipment in the sanctuary, much deliberation and prayer over the correct course of action, session has decided to purchase a sound system that eliminates these concerns. Be on the lookout in the coming months- a new organ and a new sound system means some powerfully potent worship experiences!

MISSIONS

Collections for August

Our Sharing God's Love collection: Peanut Butter & Jelly

Summer Collections: Snack Pack items, PB&J, small mac & cheese, and beanie weenies.

Our Ongoing Collections are: Pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for Education for Seven Oaks Elementary School. We also continue to collect for Two Cents a Meal for the hungry in the red ribbon jars at our meals. You may leave your items in the Missions drop off room or the black baskets in the narthex. Thank you.

Loving Our Neighbors: Missions Ministry News

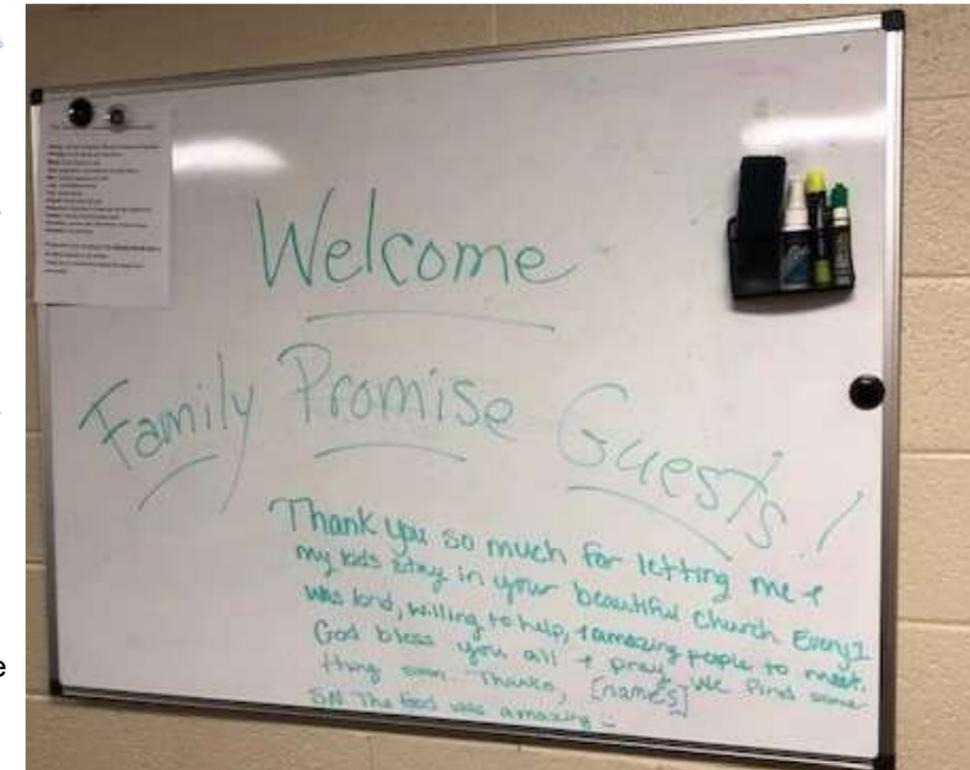


It was brought to our attention by Kitsie Miller that this sweet note was written on the white board in the Session Room by one of our Family Promise guests.

It reads:

"Thank you so much for letting me & my kids stay in your beautiful church. Everyone was kind, willing to help, and amazing people to meet. God Bless you all & pray we find something soon. P.S. The food was amazing."

So many folks made Family Promise week possible. They should know how much they were appreciated.



SOES School Supplies (Grades K-5)

Once again we are taking donations of school supplies for Seven Oaks Elementary School. You can bring your donations to church and put them in the black baskets in the narthex or in the mission closet.

The list is as follows:

Washable Glue Sticks
Dry Erase Markers
Pack of Crayola Crayons
Pack of Long Colored Pencils
Packs of #2 Pencils
Pink Pearl Erasers
Blunt Scissors

Filler Paper – Wide Rule
Colored Plastic Folder (with pockets & brads)
Highlighters
Pack of Pens
Zip Pencil Bag
Ziploc Bags – gallon, quart, sandwich
Hand Sanitizer in Pump Dispenser



Thank you for your help!