The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #885
Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Dave Allen & Rich Allen
53 Fox Run Lane
Columbia SC 29210-4968

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
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Darren & Rebecca Taylor

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Richard Brinkley - Admin.
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Mark Pilkington - C.E.
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

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September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

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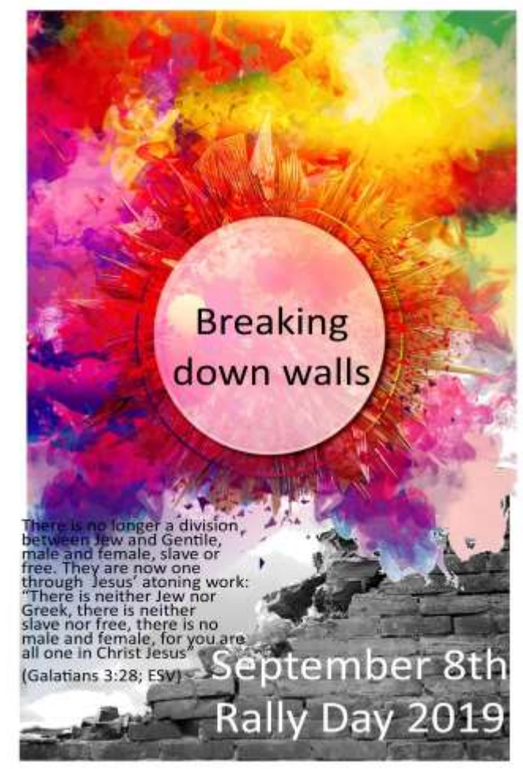

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2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
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As we move into the coming year, join us as we explore the new events, small groups, and all of the amazing activities happening in the 2020 church year. Come hungry for breakfast at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

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Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

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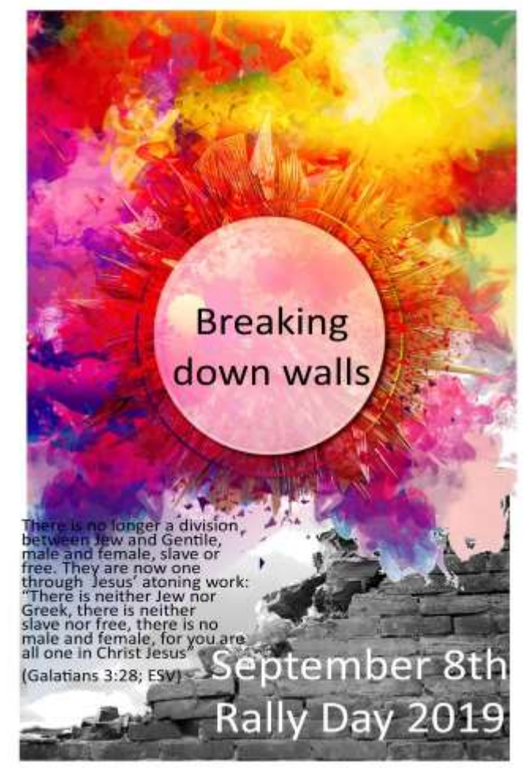

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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John & Betty Anderson
107 Androver Cr
Irmo SC 29063-2243

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Amanda & Sydney Edwards

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

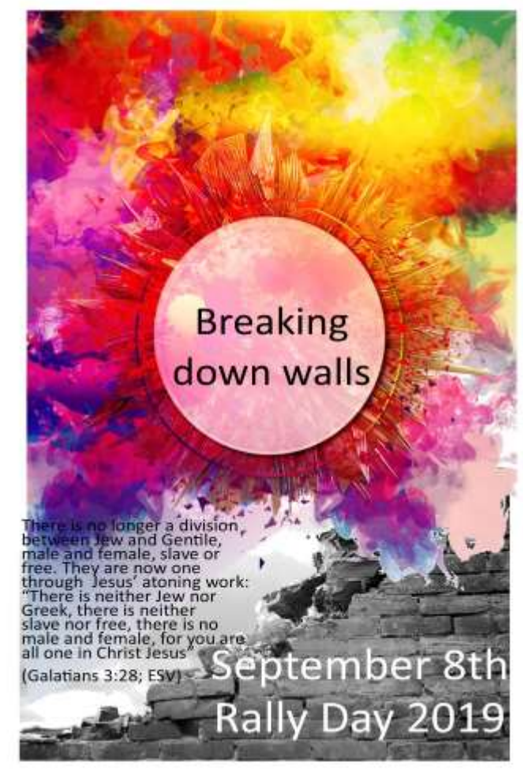
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Class of 2022—Session
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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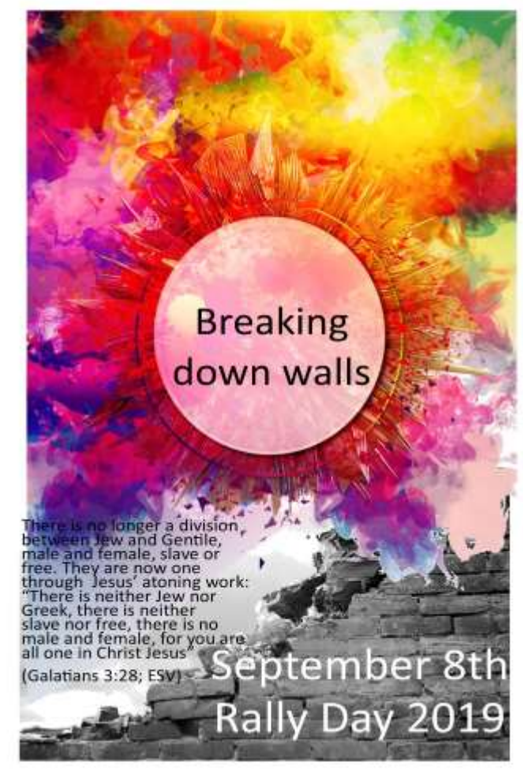

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Bill Bailey
106 Tyborne Cr
Columbia SC 29210-4232

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Inez Elliottt

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

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REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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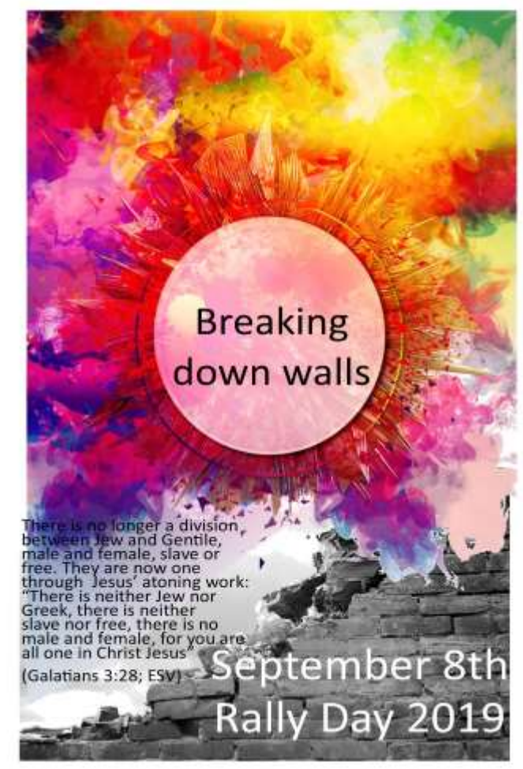

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Guy SanFratello & Judy Barnes
`471 Baker Mill Kae Lane
Gaston SC 29053-8324

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Frazier & Mimi Jackson

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

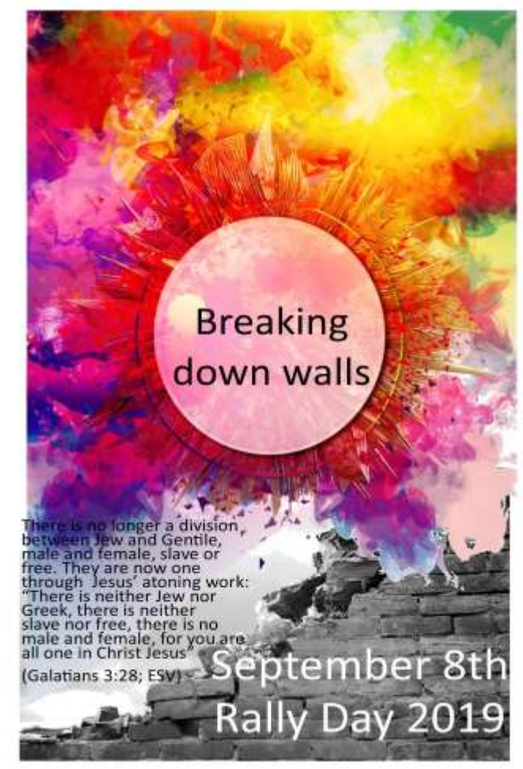
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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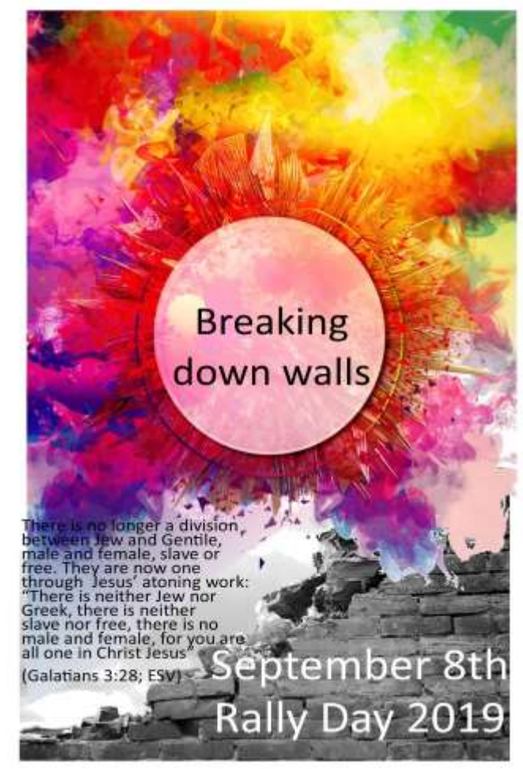

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Richard Brinkley
1824 Blackbird Dr
West Columbia SC 29169

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Guy San Fratello & Judy Barnes

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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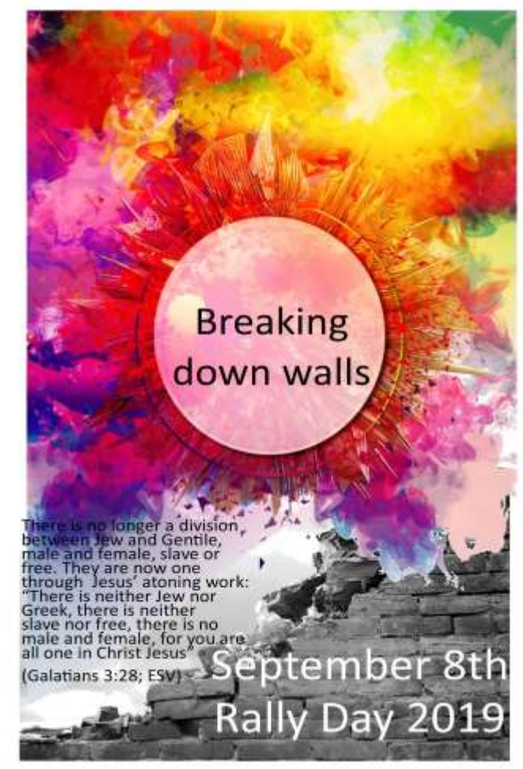

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Hal & Suzy Bowman
109 Brassfield Ct
Irmo SC 29063-8468

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Greg & Melanie Mixon

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

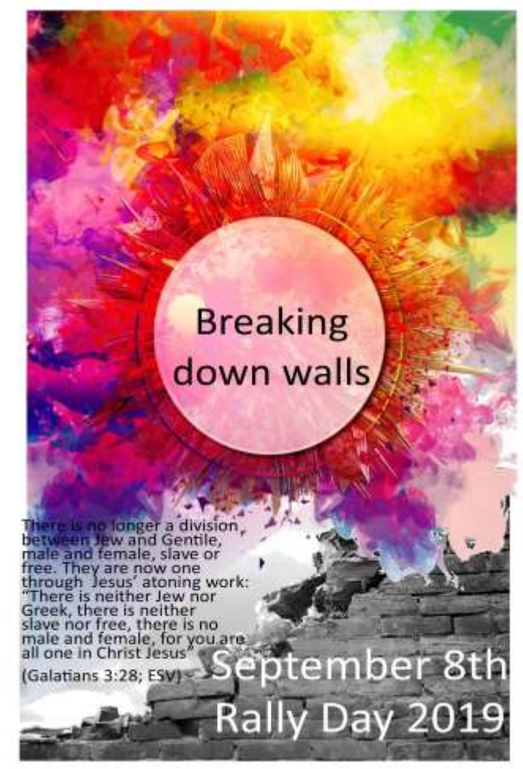
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
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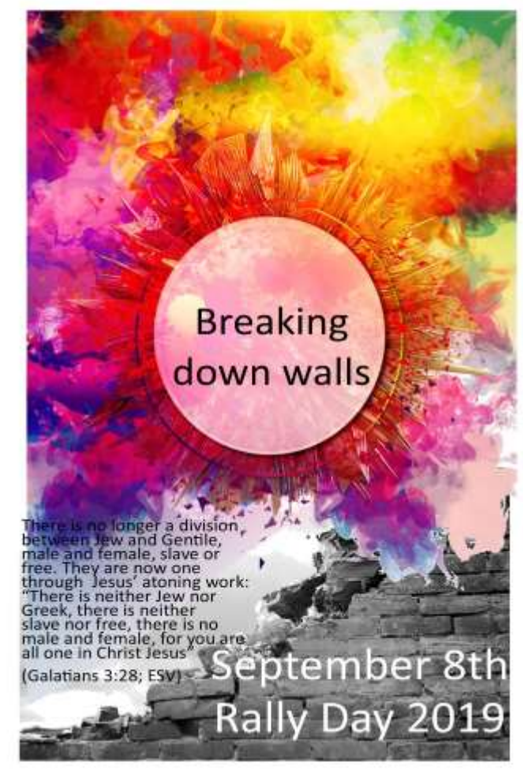

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SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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118 Aldbury Rd
Columbia SC 29212-1952

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Fred & Janice Holbrook

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

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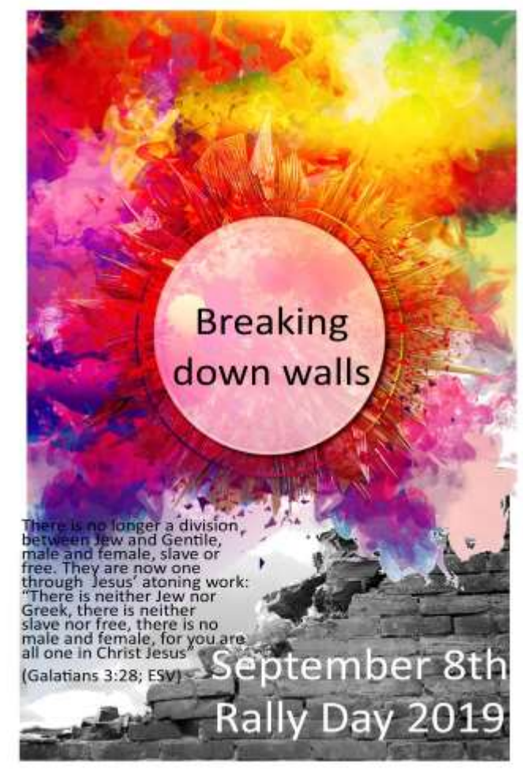

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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June Burkhalter
133 Park Meadow Dr
Lexington SC 29072-7387

SEPTEMBER

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Ed & Cathy Keelen

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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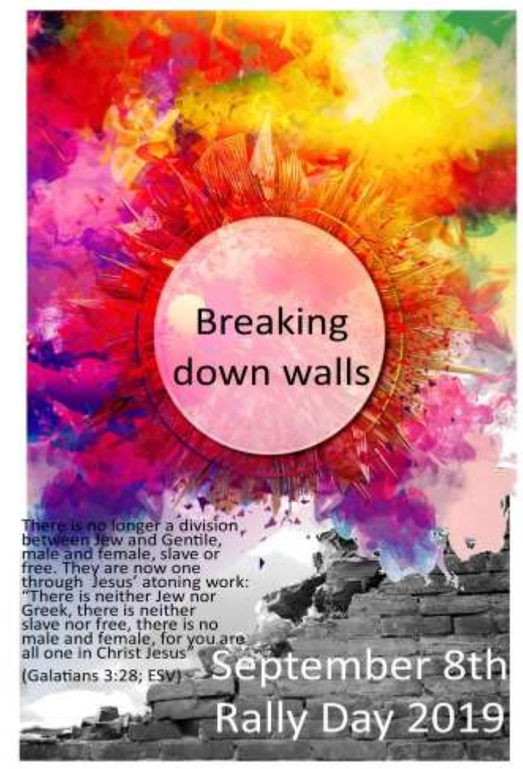

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

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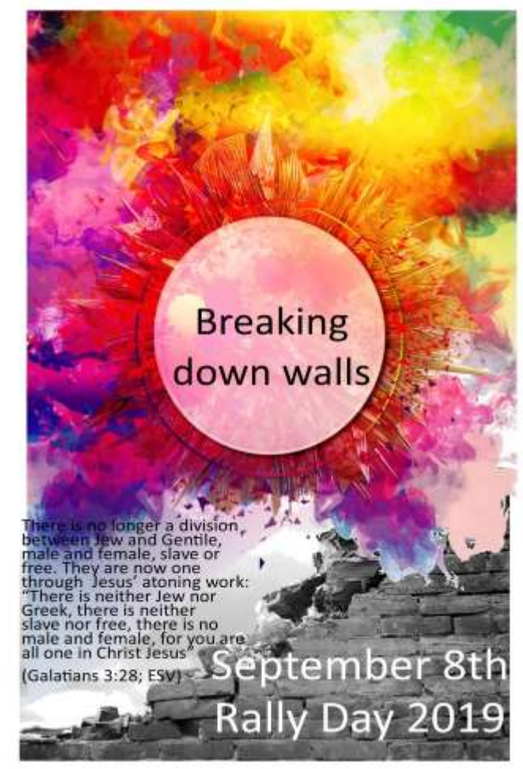

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Andy & Debbie Byrne
220 Leton Dr
Columbia SC 29210-4214

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Faye Murrell

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

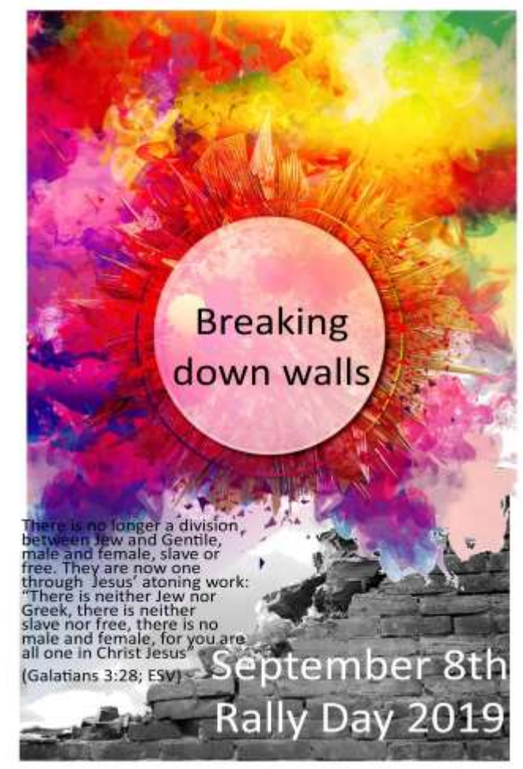
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
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Fran Brannon & Jeffrey

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
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turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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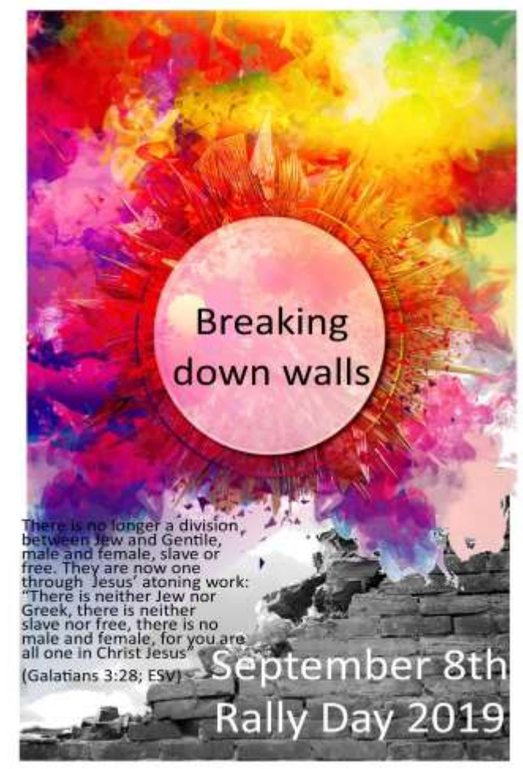

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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SEPTEMBER

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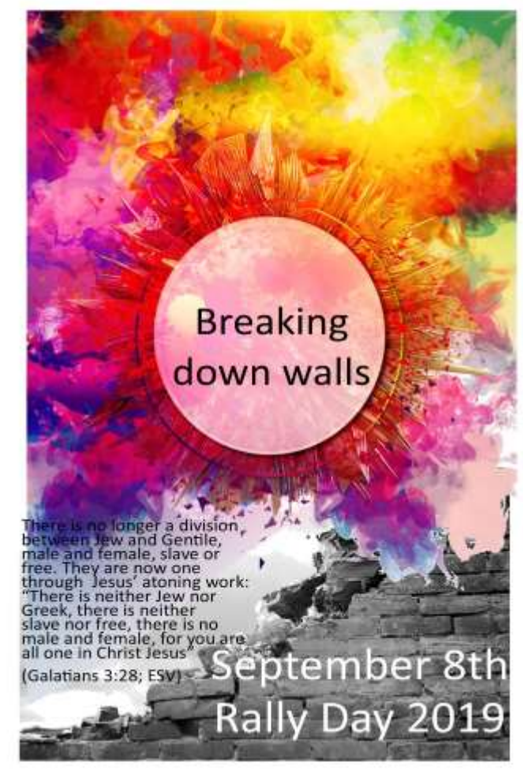

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Allen & Julie Burnside
365 S Stonehedge Dr
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Ed & Margie Billings

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
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John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
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Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

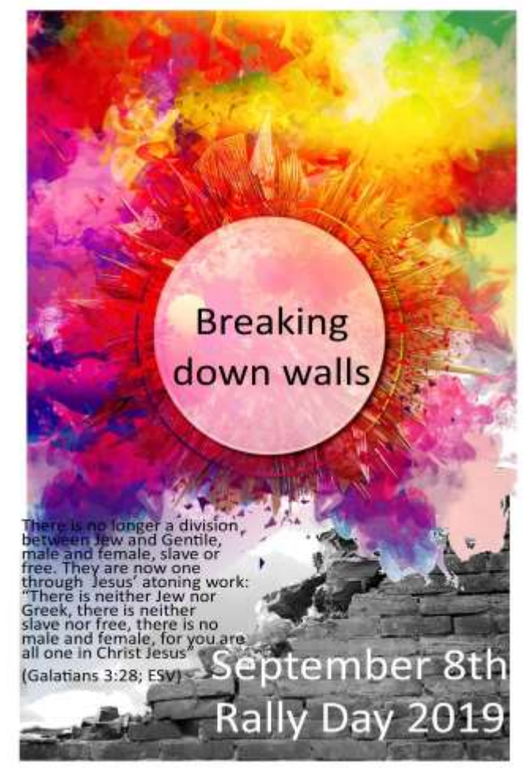
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

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Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

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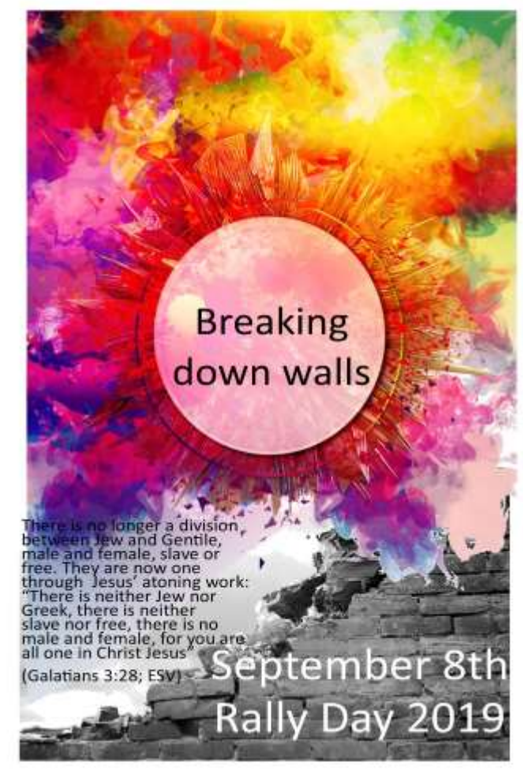

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
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2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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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:

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Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #885
Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Kathie Cashion
200 Wellmore Rom 4105
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

David & Rev Alice Odell

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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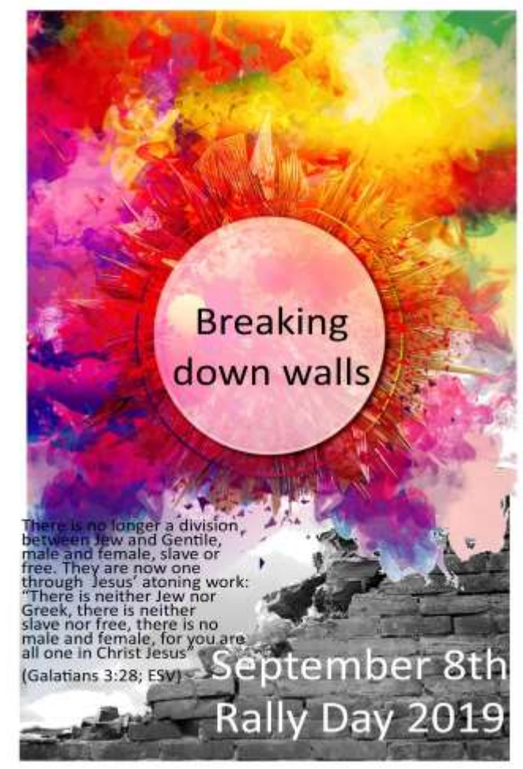

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Mickey & Claudia Church
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Columbia SC 29210-4452

SEPTEMBER

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Dick & Barb Schneider

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

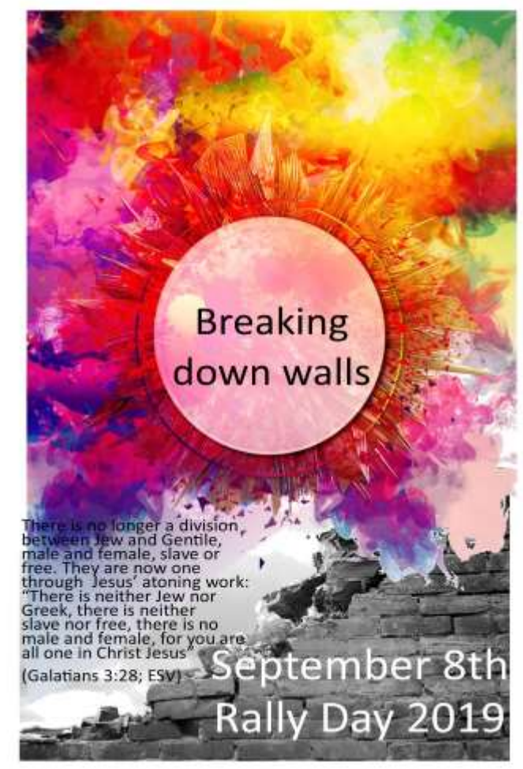
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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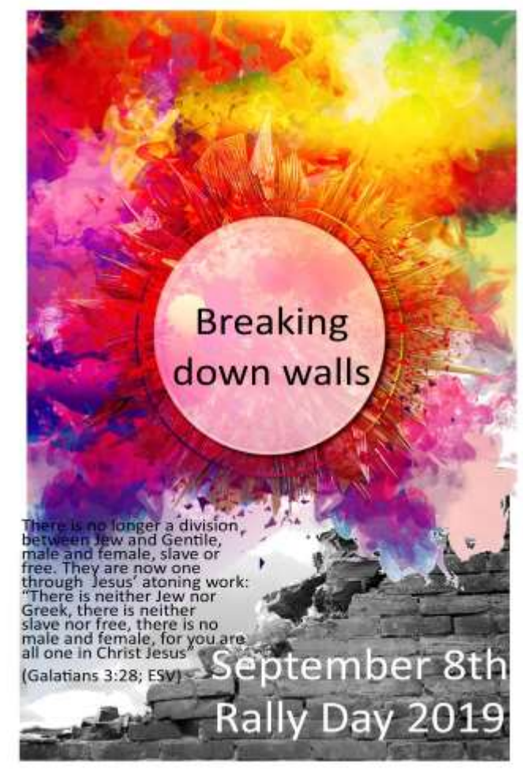

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Terry & Maureen Clark
514 Abbey Road
Carthage NC 28327

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Crawford & Gail Bookout

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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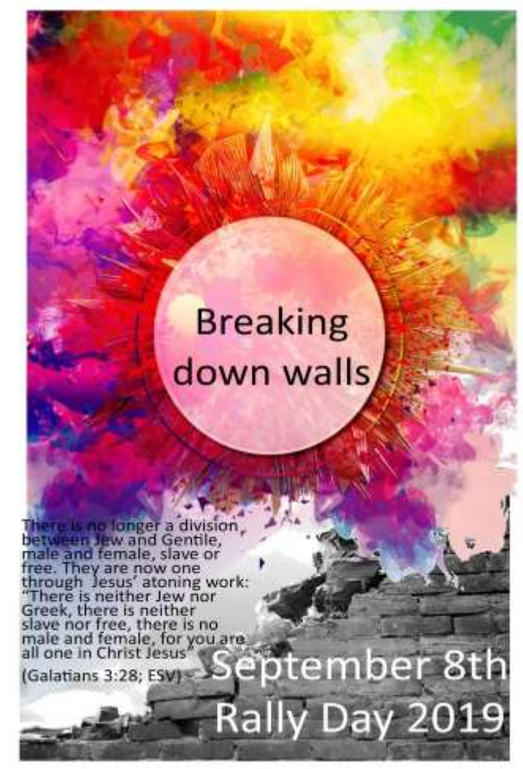

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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The Leaf

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516 Woodland Hills
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Dave & Carol Will & Family

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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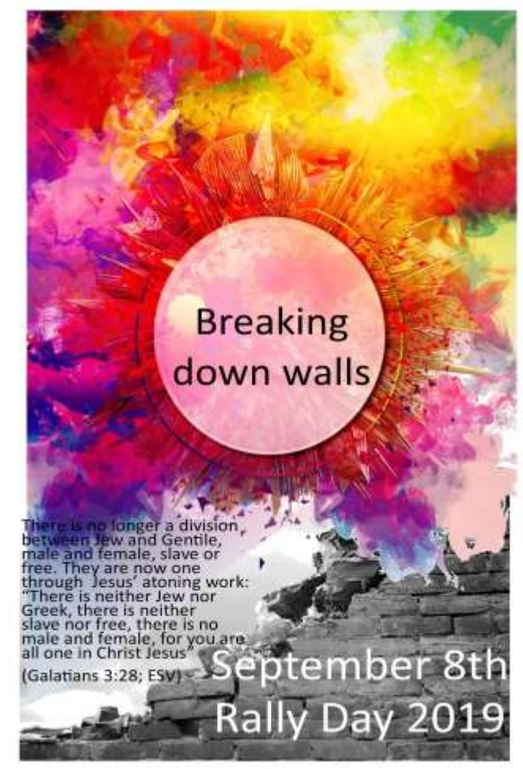

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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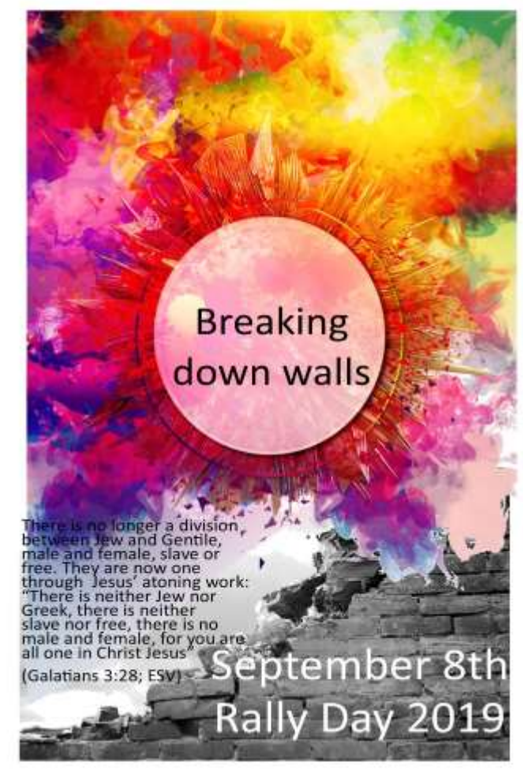

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   a. $100 Level
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4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or 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!!!!

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Ron & Delaine Crook
200 Minus St.
St. George SC 29477

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Our Pastors and Staff

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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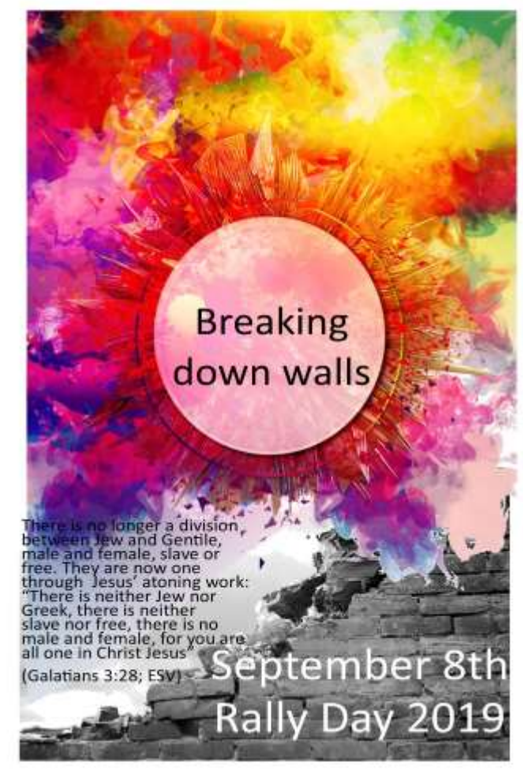

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Chris Laughter

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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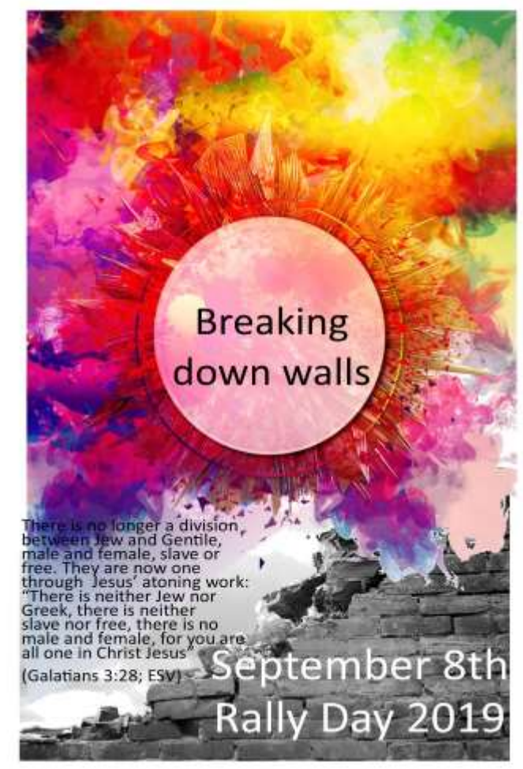

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Kris & Mary Dempster
2431 Rolling Pines Road
Columbia SC 29210-5673

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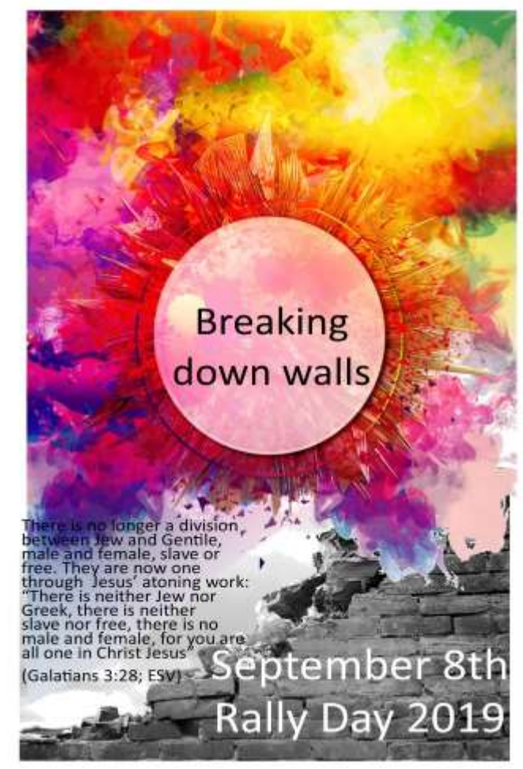

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Byron & Nickie Dickson
14 Brittany Way
Columbia SC 29212-0908

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Charlaine Pilkington

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

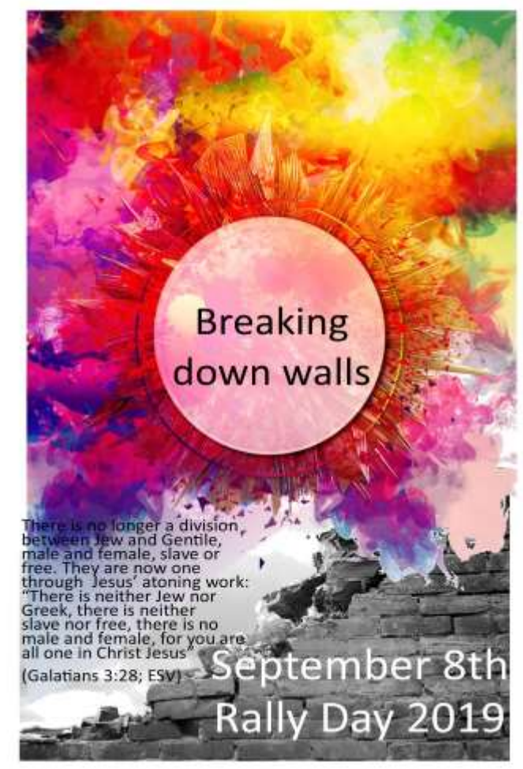
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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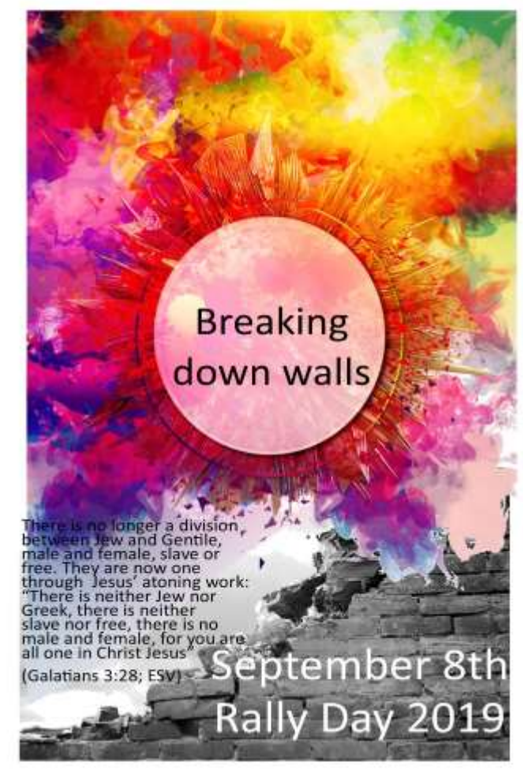

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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OB & Sarah Drayton
338 South Stonehedge Dr.
Columbia SC 29210-4226

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

John and Charlene Carter

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

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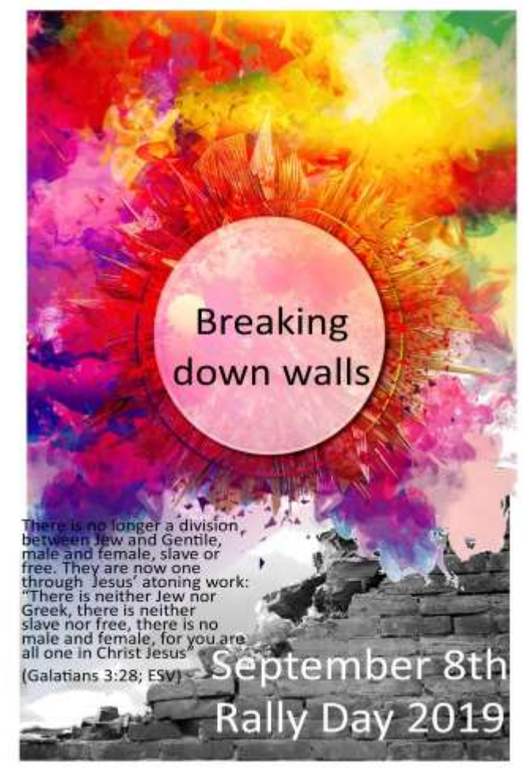

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Bob & Becky Eason
1047 Lofty Pine Dr.
Columbia SC 29212-2037

SEPTEMBER

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Trustees
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Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

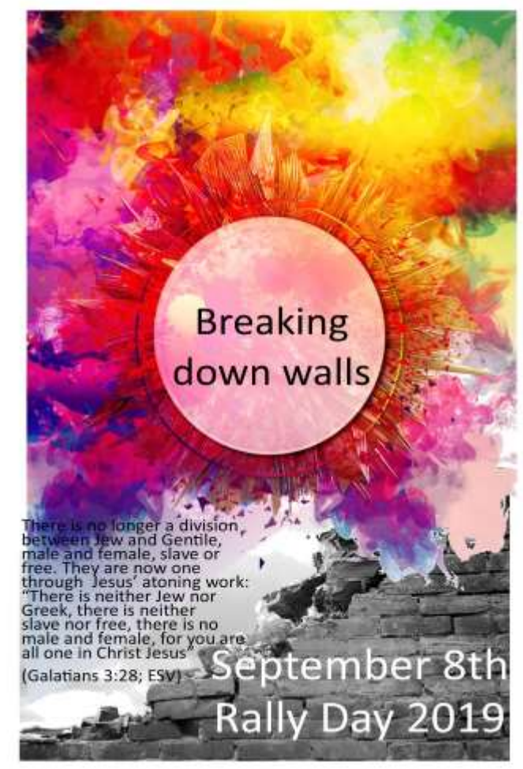
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

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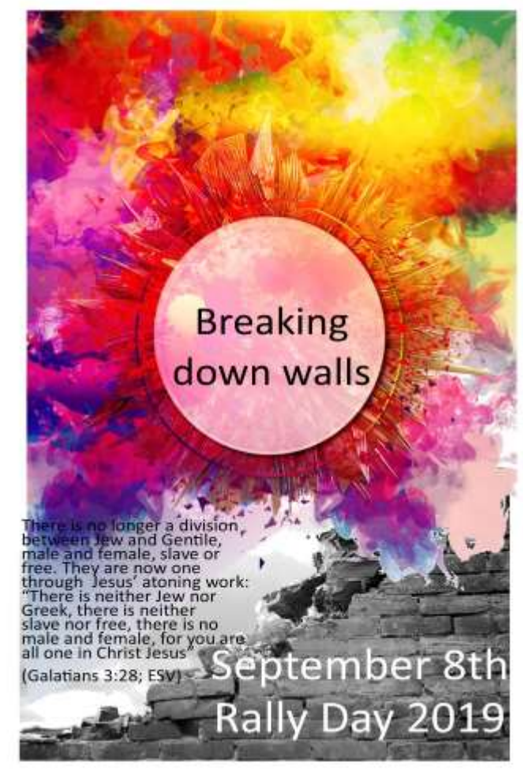

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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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212 Rolling Hills Ct.
West Columbia SC 29172-2064

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

David Waugh

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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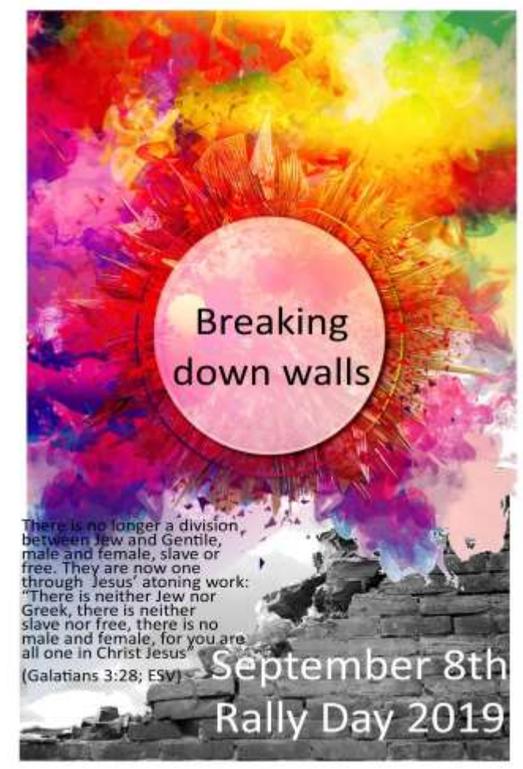

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Carol Ginn and Family

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

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September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

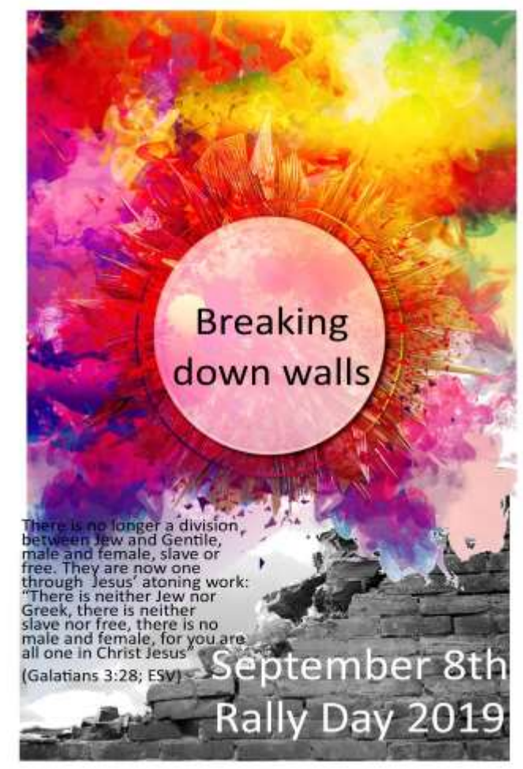
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

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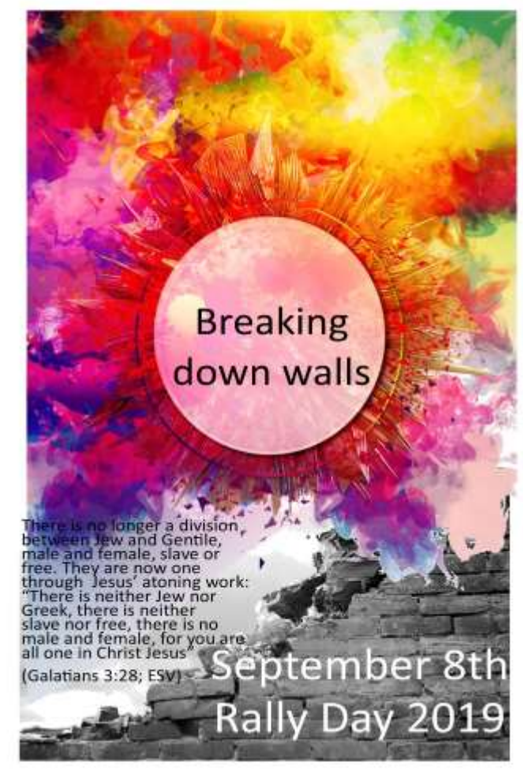

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Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jenny Fogle
214 Muirfield Ct.
Columbia SC 29212-0925

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Bundrick Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

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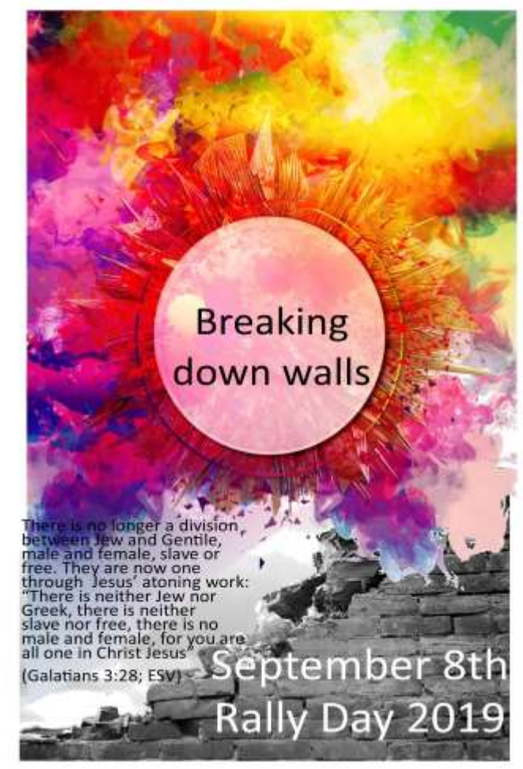

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Alison Forbes
112 Palace Green Court
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SEPTEMBER

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Bubba & Kathy Locklair

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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September 2019

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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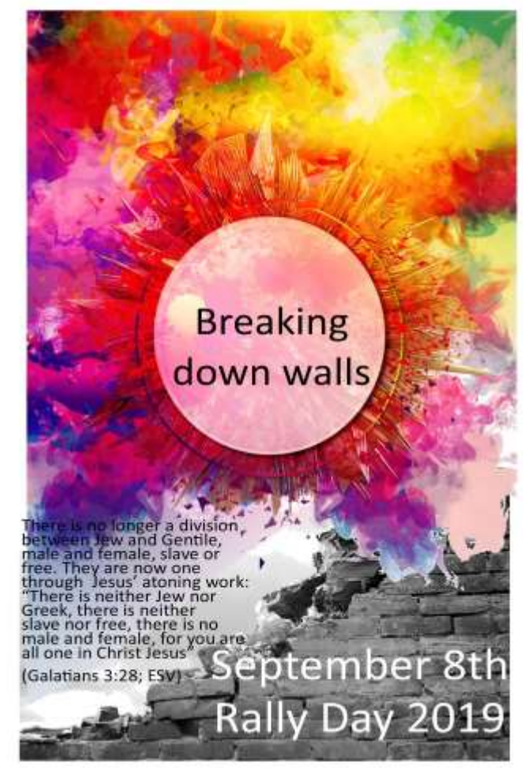

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

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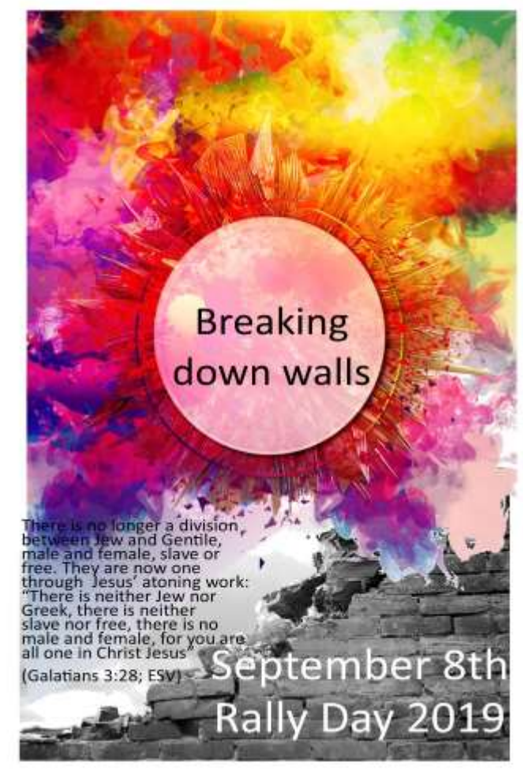

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Barbara Fowler
700 DaVega Dr., Unit 122
Lexington SC 29073-9558

SEPTEMBER

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8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Bob & Becky Eason and Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

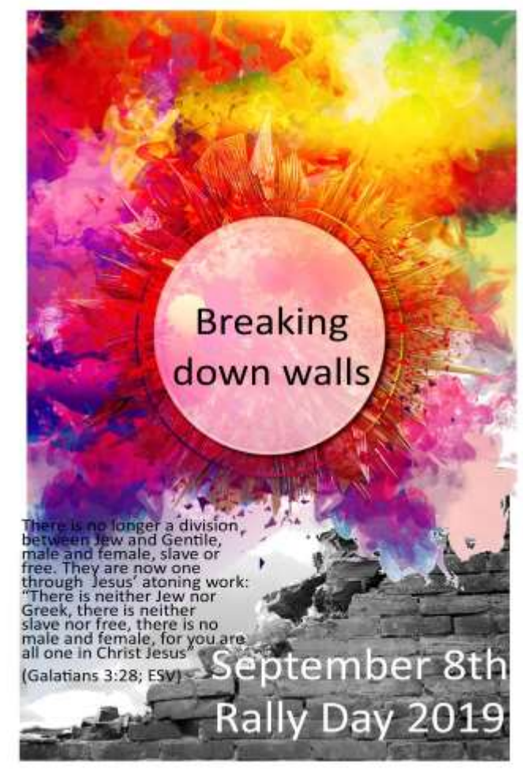
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
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Alida Rawl

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
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Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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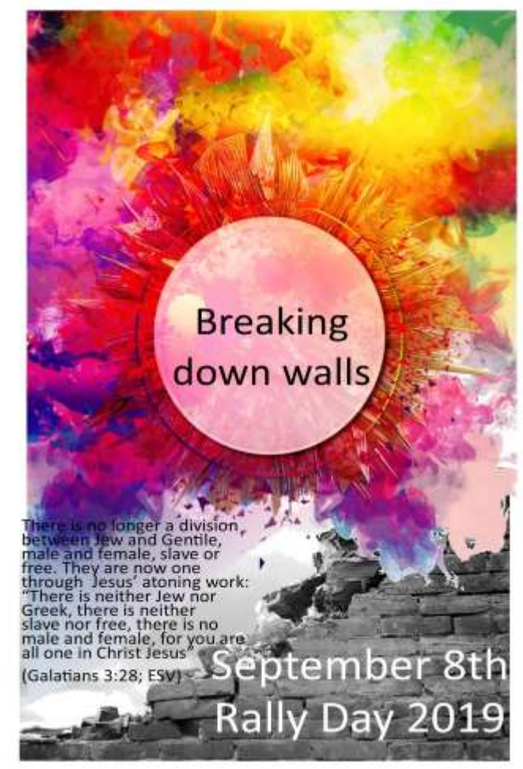

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Joe & Myrna Gause
531 Lockner Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-3240

SEPTEMBER

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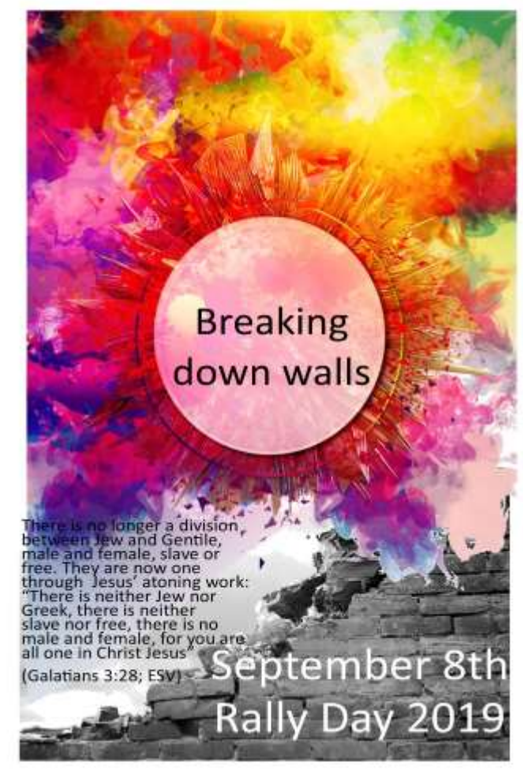

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The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Carol Ginn
208 Hope Trace Way
Irmo SC 29063

SEPTEMBER

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Bill & Karin Salter

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

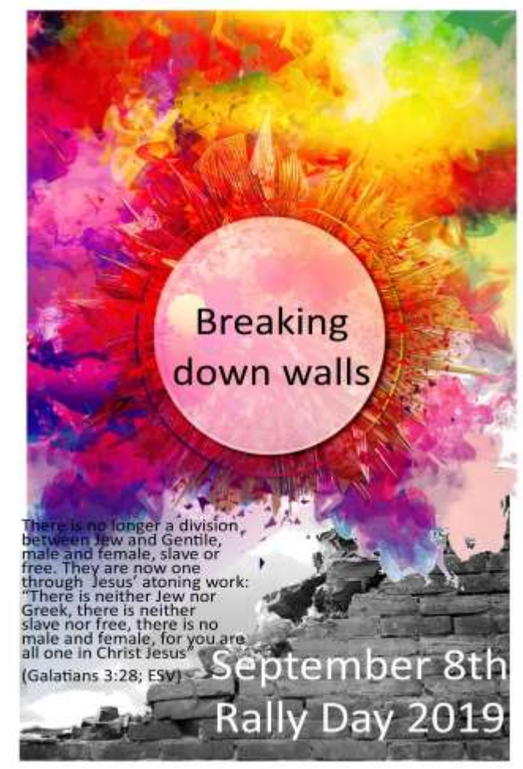
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Richard Brinkley - Admin.
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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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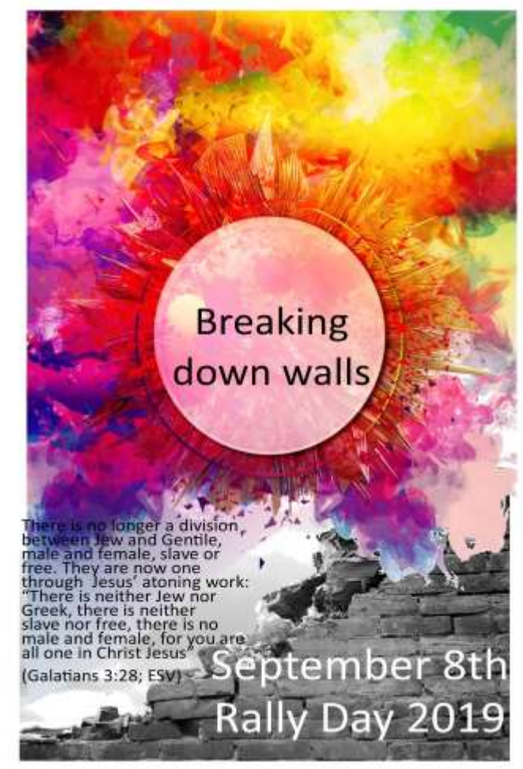

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Kara Grant
212 Hammock Dr.
Lexington SC 29072-6859

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Bev Elbert

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

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REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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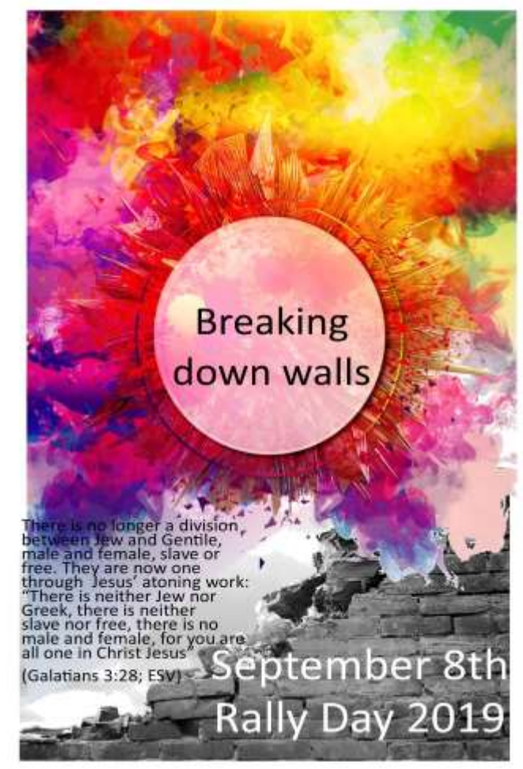

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Carol Griffith
6420 Nursery Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-2603

SEPTEMBER

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Betsy Kent

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

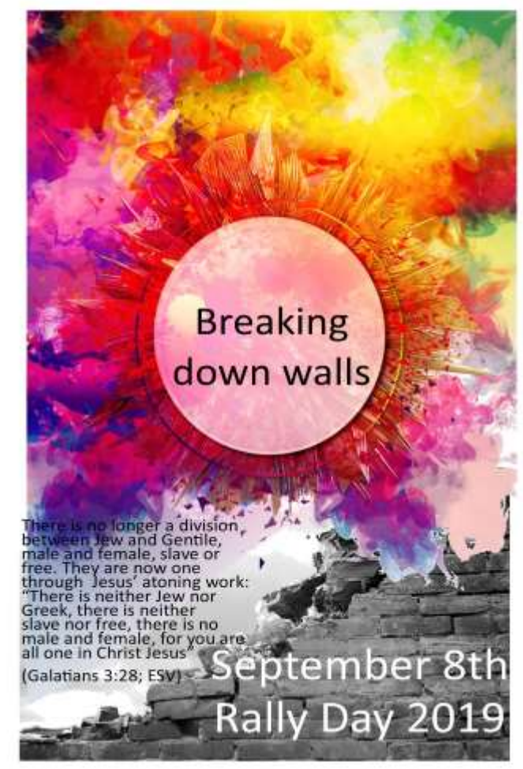
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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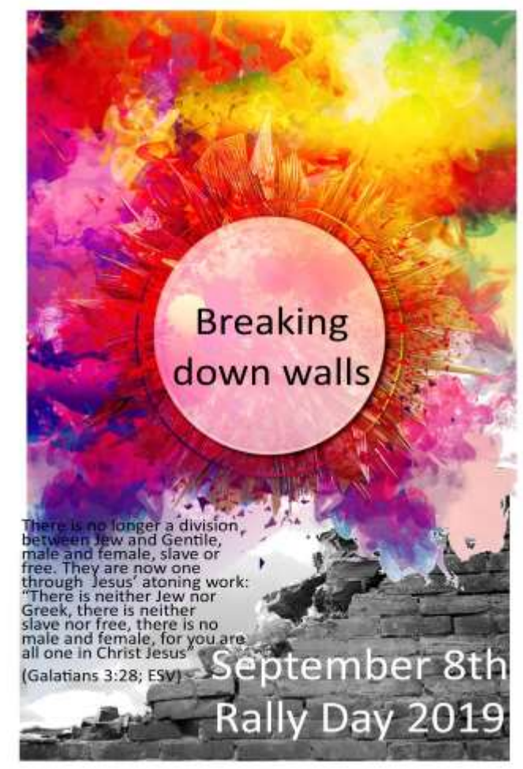

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Gerhard & Carol Haimberger
1 Dunleith Ct.
Irmo SC 29063-8042

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Banks & Polly Robinson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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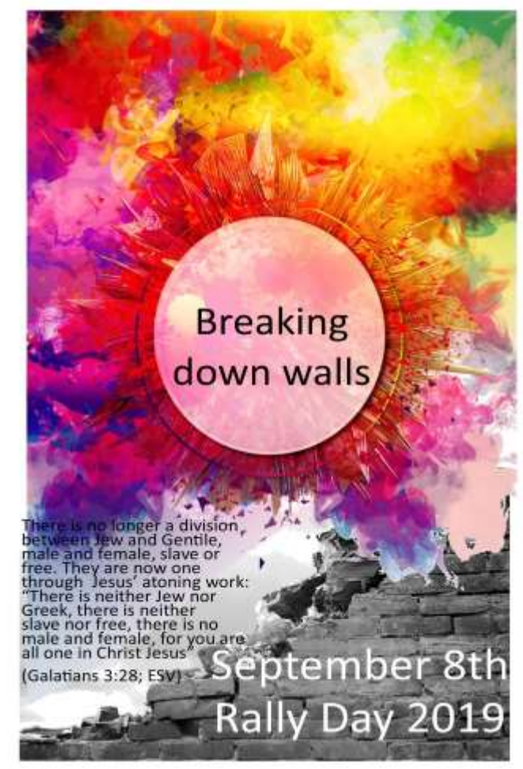

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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SEPTEMBER

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Paula Giugliano

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

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The Leaf

September 2019

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This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

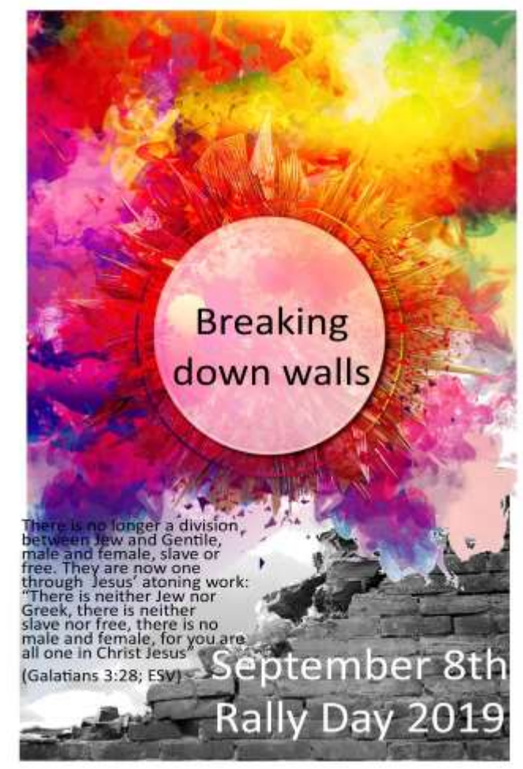
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
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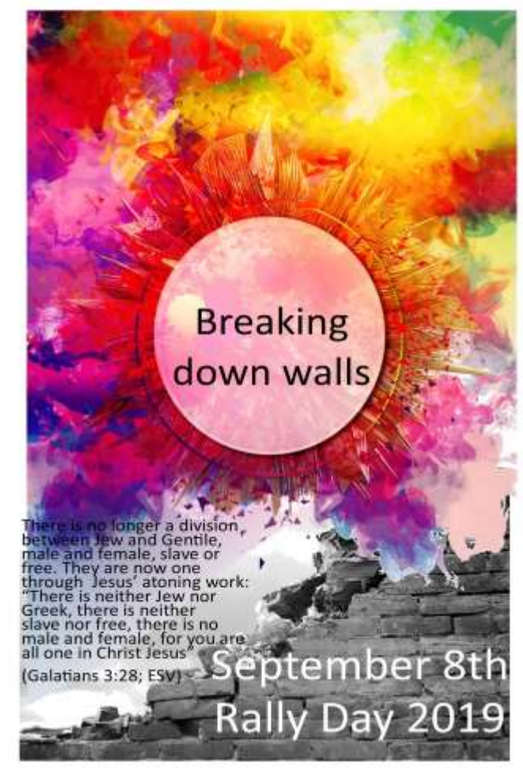

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Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jim and Anne Hill
104 Mews Ct
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Andy & Debbie Byrne and Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

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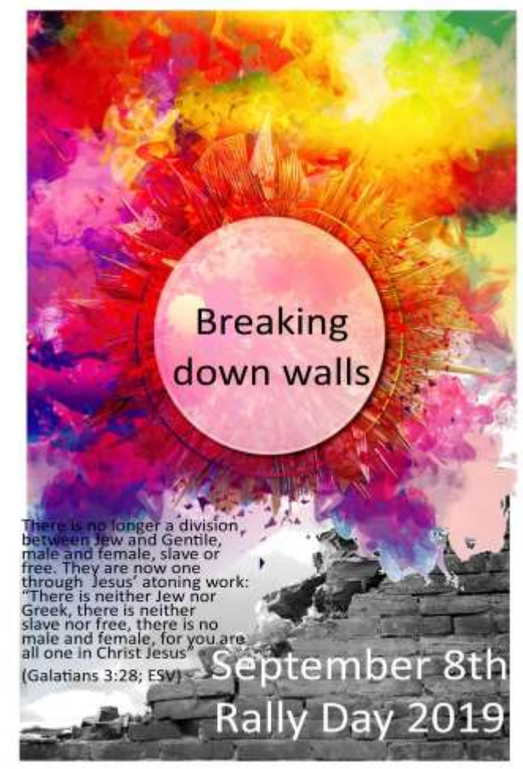

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Lou Ann Hilton
19 Landmark Dr., Apt. 28-B
Columbia SC 29210-4509

SEPTEMBER

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Amy Schwartz

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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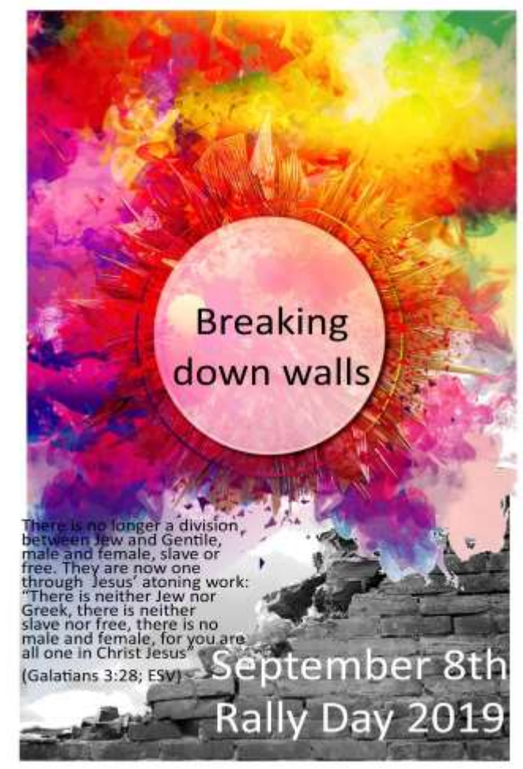

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

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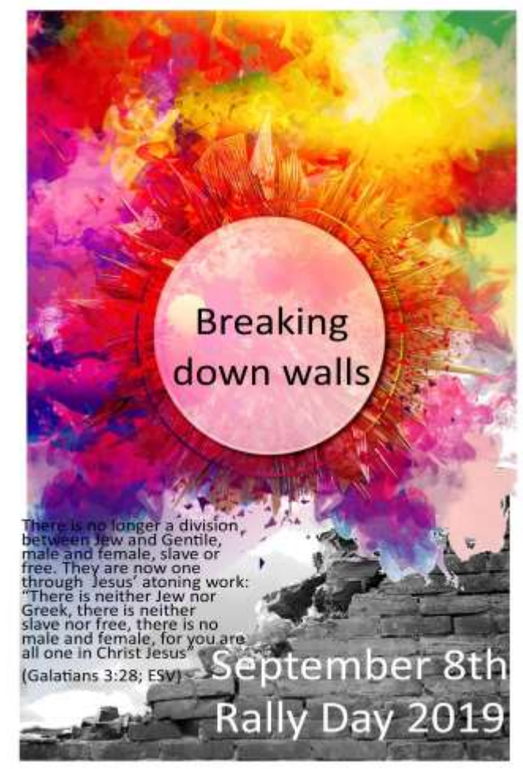

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Fred and Janice Holbrook
261 Pope's Lane
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Allen & Julie Burnside

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

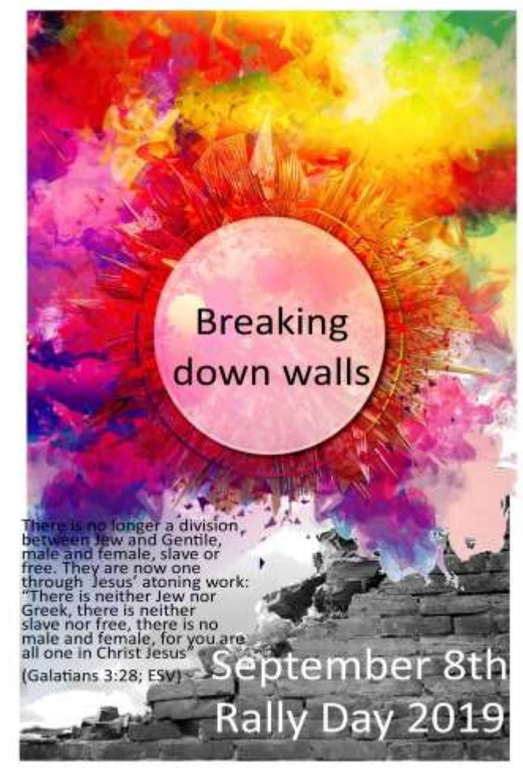
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
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Alison Forbes

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

September 2019

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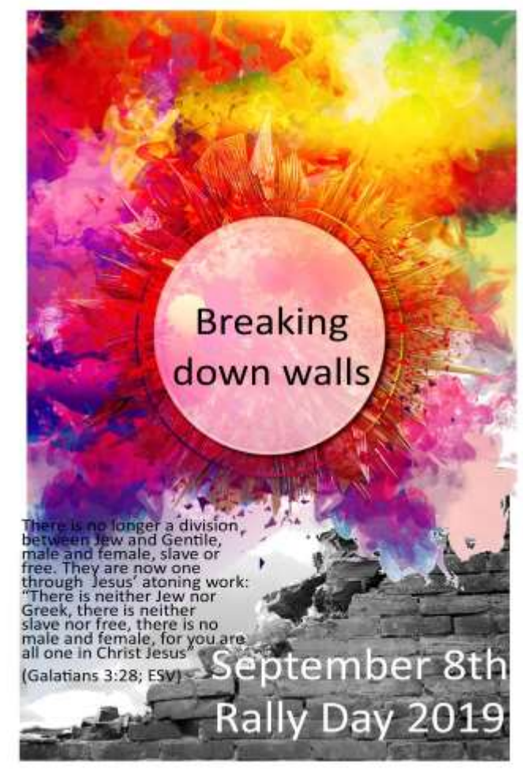

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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700 Davega Drive Unit 23
Lexington SC 29073

SEPTEMBER

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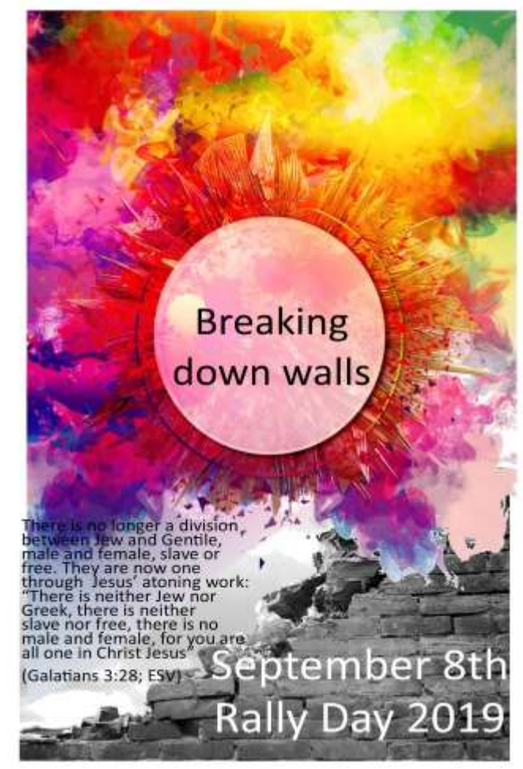

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Mark Ingram
185 Waterstone Dr.
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

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Al & Lou Krech

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

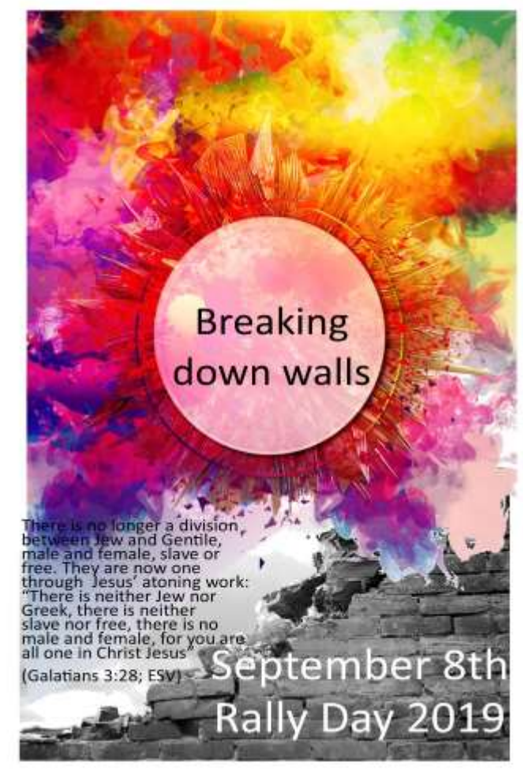
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

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Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

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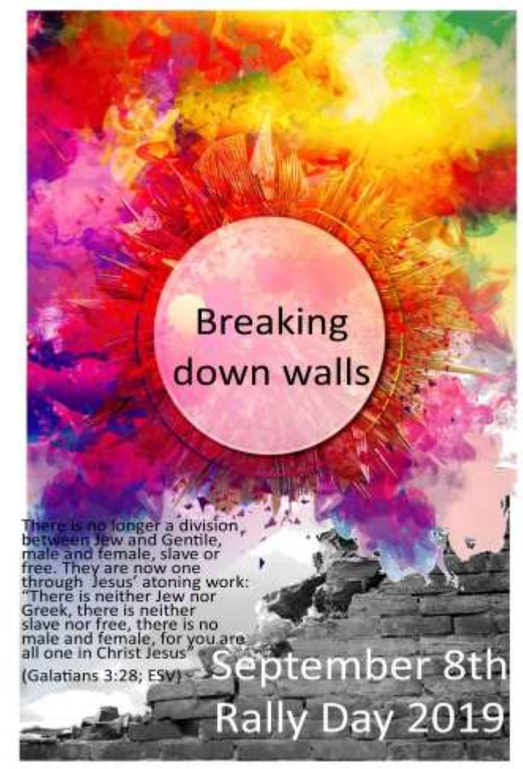

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
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3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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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:

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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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Molly Jackson
2809 Hardwicke Rd.
Columbia SC 29210-5028

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Zach & Robin Ashcraft

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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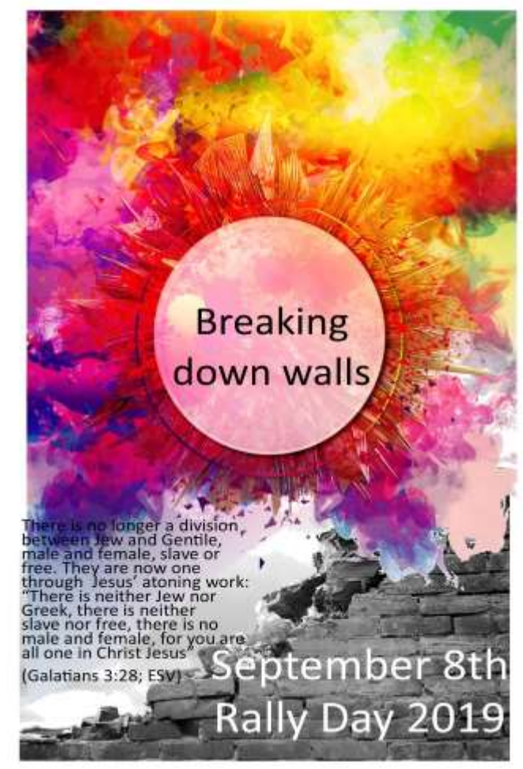

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The Leaf

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Mark & Mary Johnson
541 Shadowbrook
Columbia SC 29210-3769

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

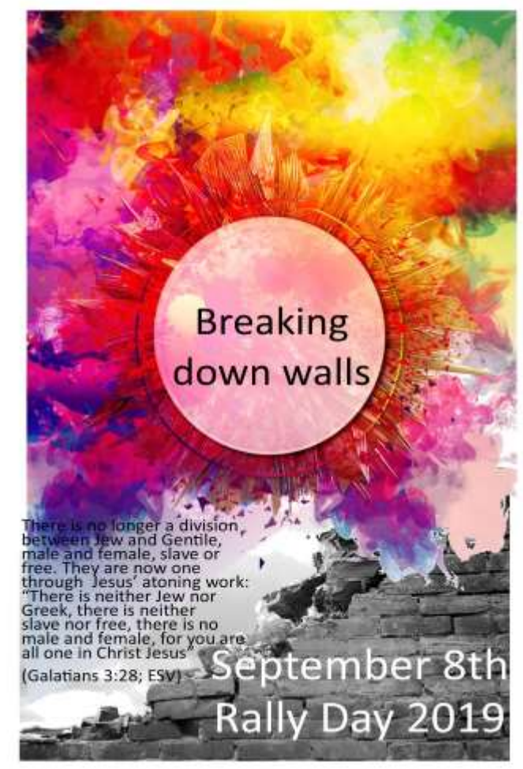
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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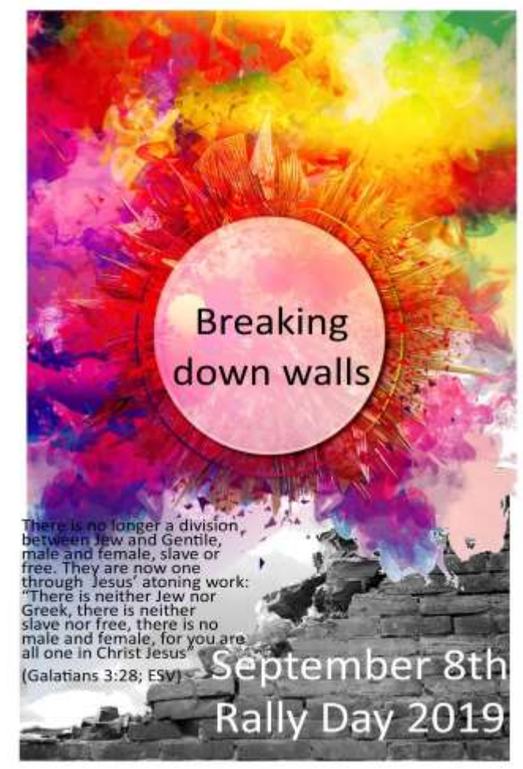

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Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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John & Sandra Jones
101 Pine Island Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-8810

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Virginia Martinez

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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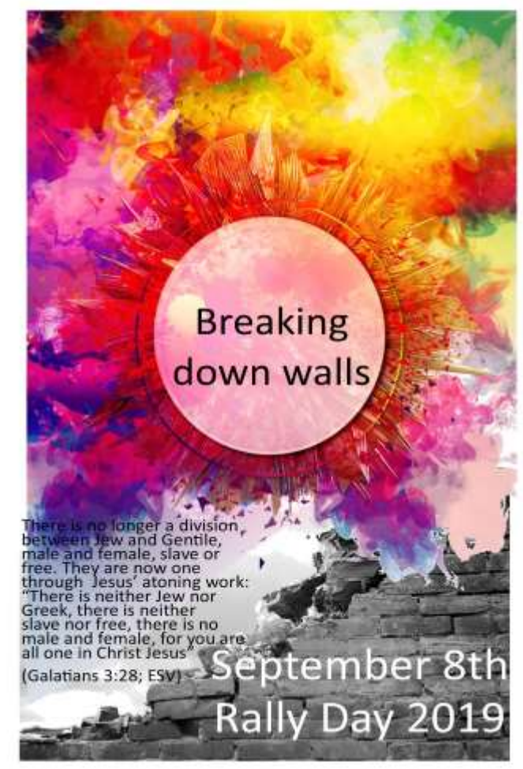

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Kathy Keane
104 Birdsong Trail
Chapin SC 29036

SEPTEMBER

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
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September 2019

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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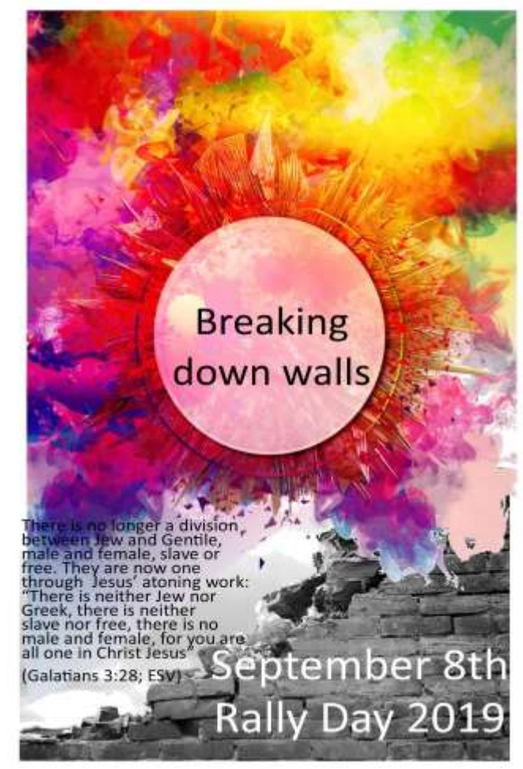

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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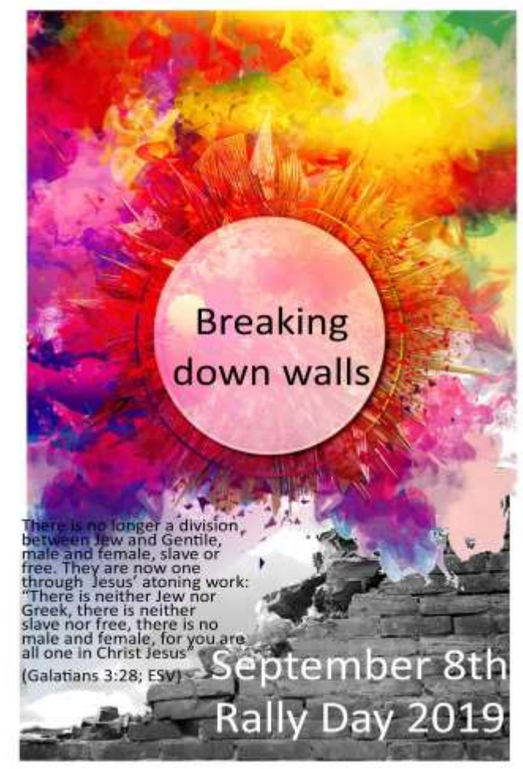

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29212-3129

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Tish Lowe

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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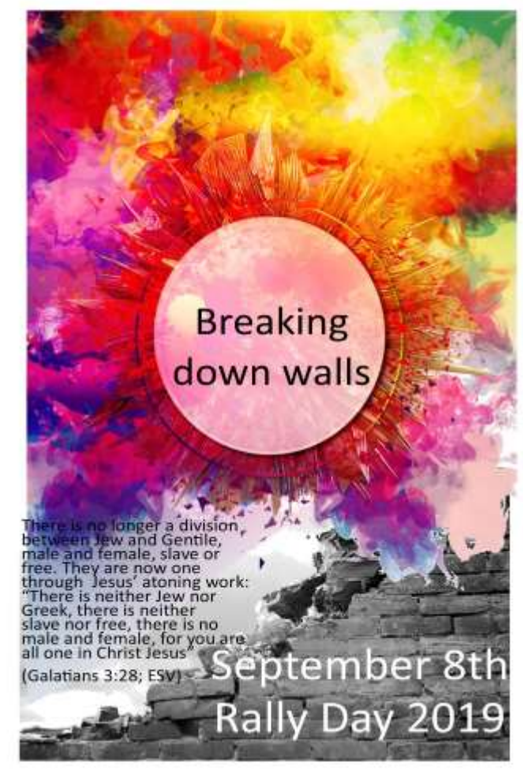

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Thomas & Melanie Smith and Family

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
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Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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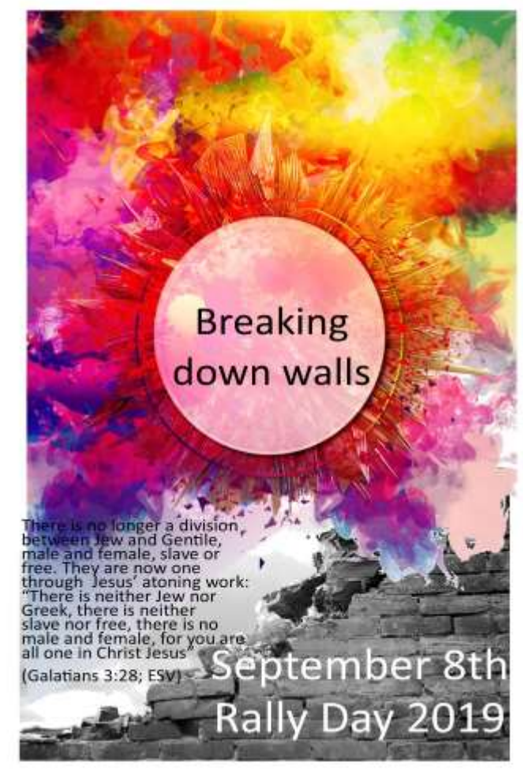

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Ben & Linda Killian
1604 Quail Lake Dr.
West Columbia SC 29170-2909

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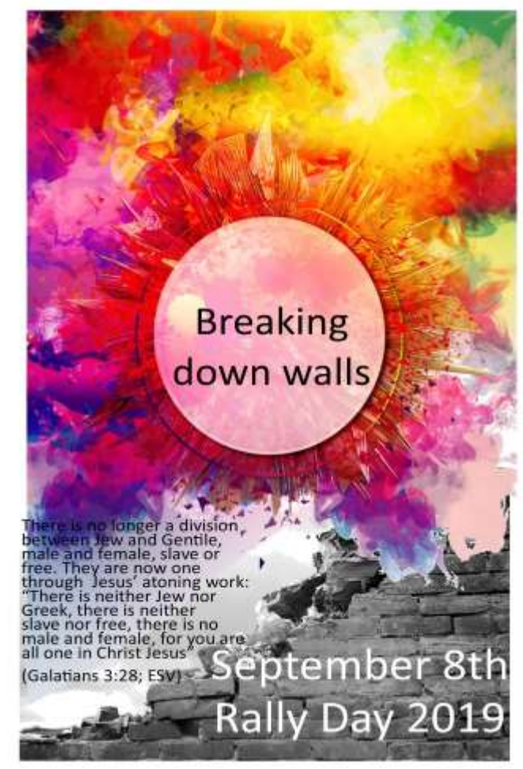

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Roni Klemick
100 Sunset Blvd., Apt. 404
West Columbia SC 29169-7565

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Terry & Maureen Clark

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

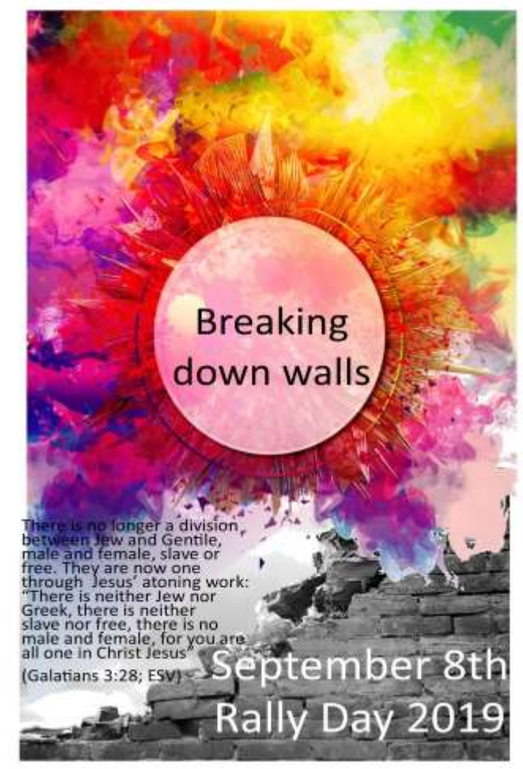
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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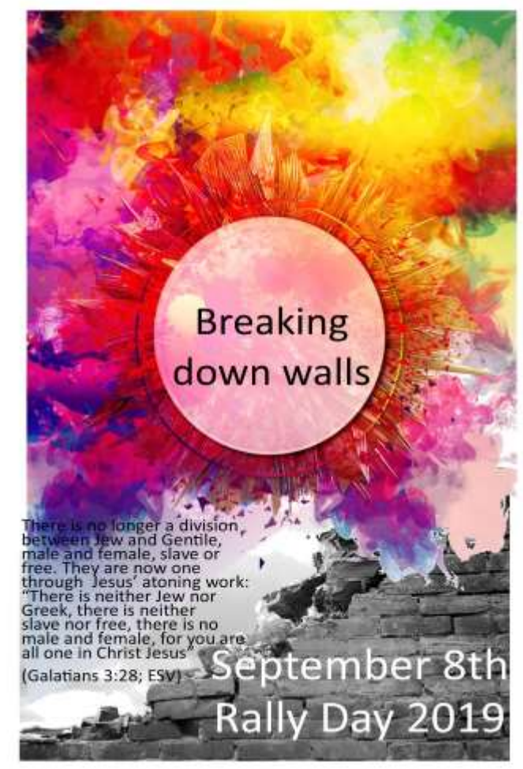

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Tom Falls & Rosemary Lambert-Falls
15 Moonshine FallsTr.
Landrum SC 29356

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Sarah Robinson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

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REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

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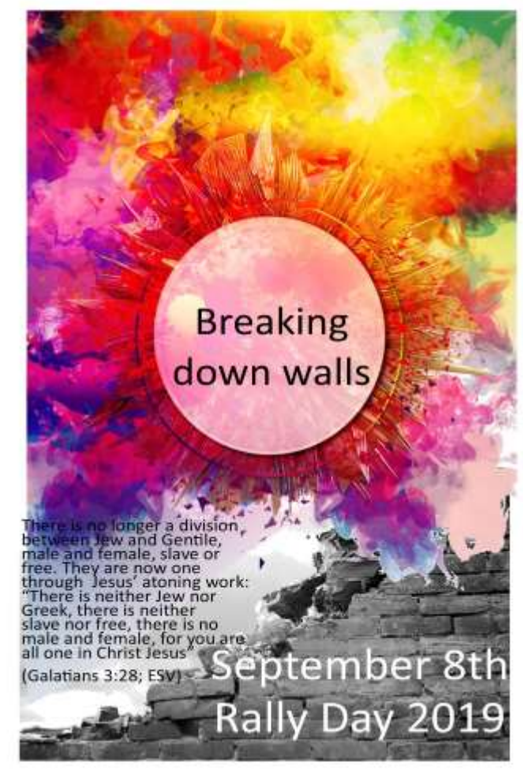

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Chris Laughter
62 Lyme Bay
Columbia SC 29212-0915

SEPTEMBER

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Sue Busbee

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
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Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

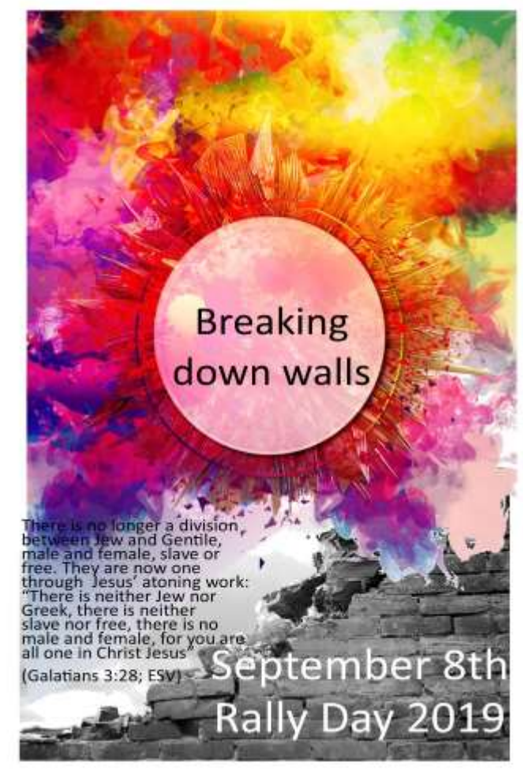
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

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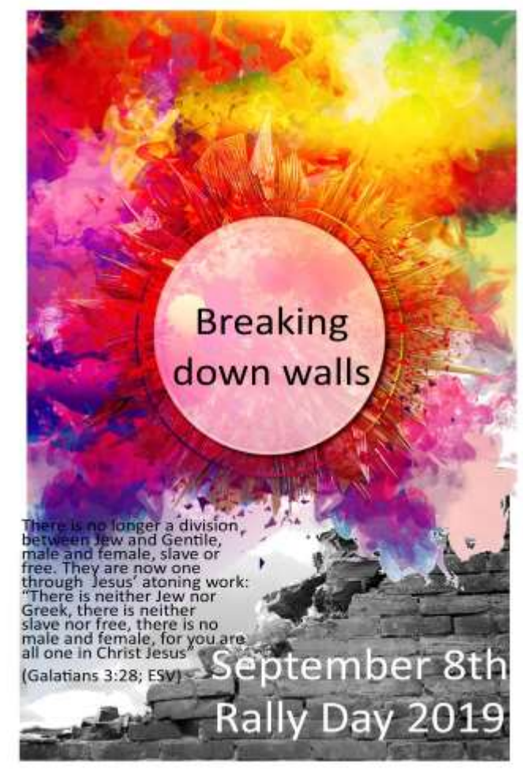

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jeanne LeBoeuf
856 Rolling Green Ln.
Columbia SC 29210-5035

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Scott & Jane Anderson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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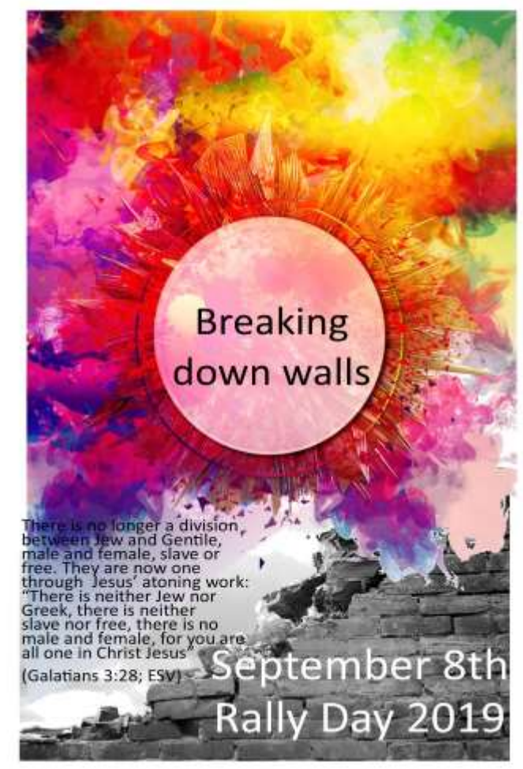

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
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16 Southwoode Cir.
Chapin SC 29036-8653

SEPTEMBER

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Savannah Tapler

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

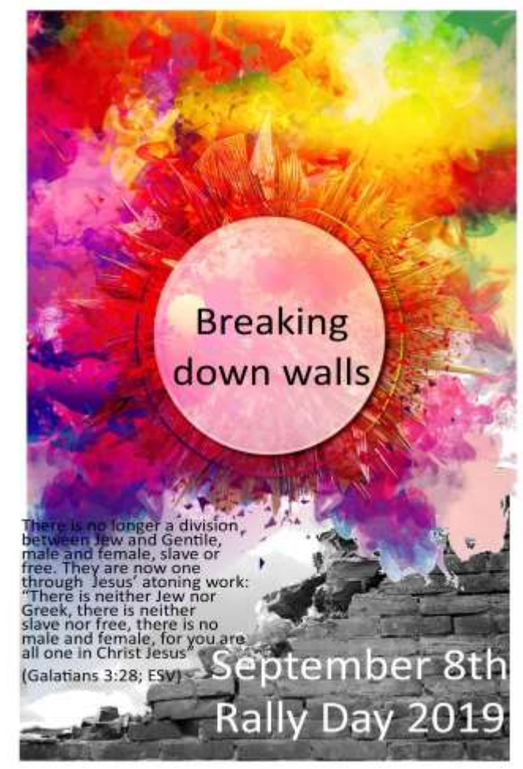
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
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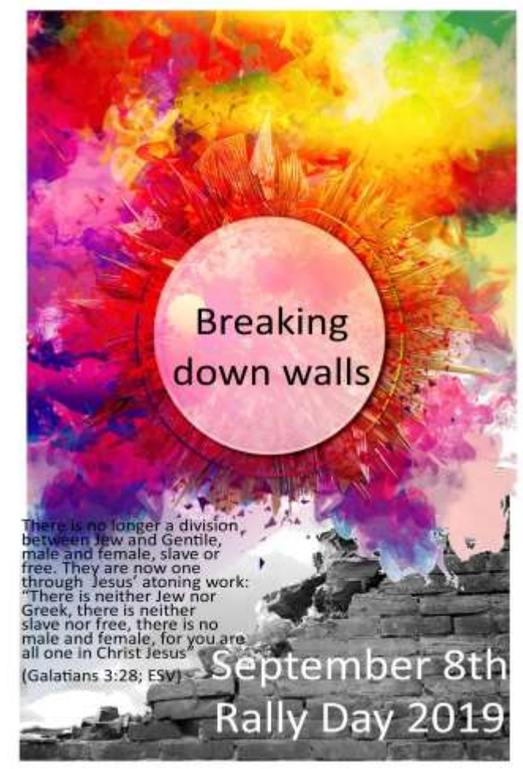

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Tish Lowe
108 Willow Winds Dr.
Columbia SC 29210- 4454

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Sam and April White

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

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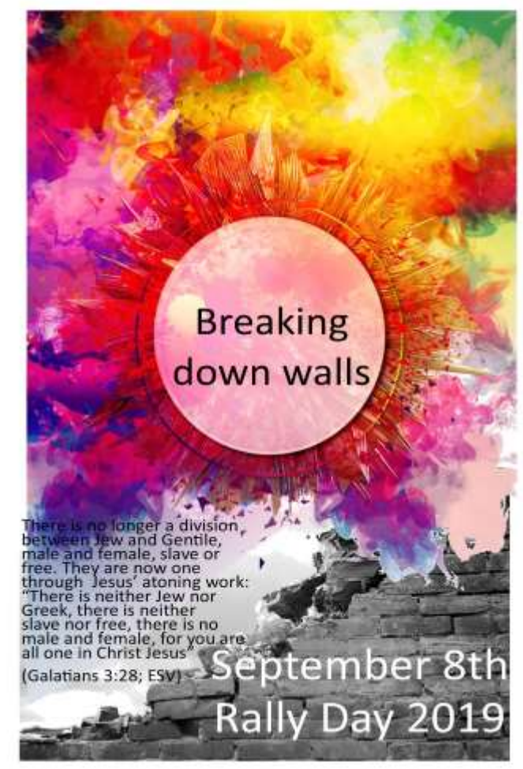

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jean Mandeville
365 Rutledge Pl.
Columbia SC 29212-3134

SEPTEMBER

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Sam and April White

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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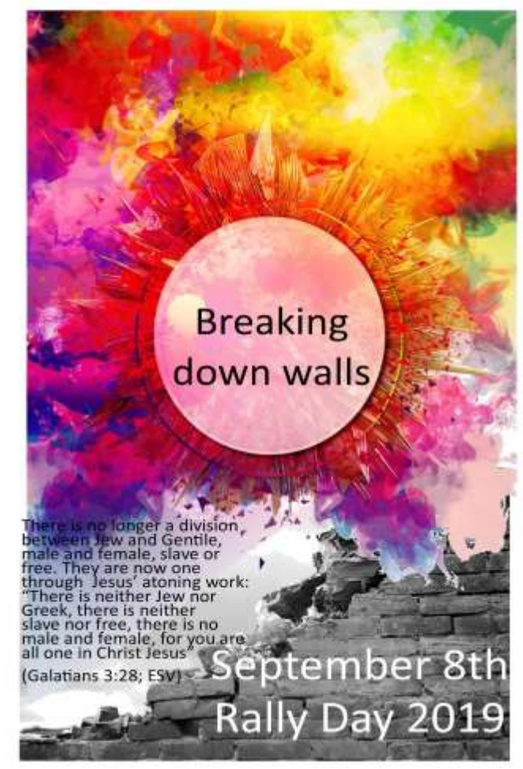

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

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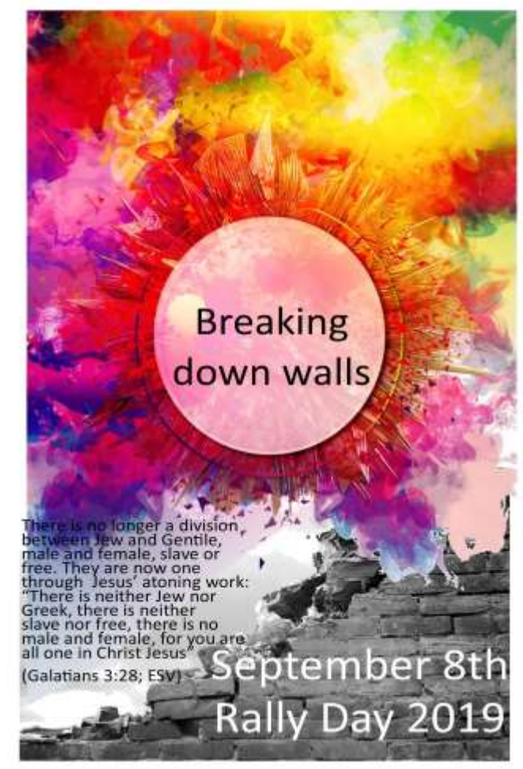

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Cassandra Staton Marshall
3420 Heyward St
Columbia SC 29205

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Ron & Sue Kesterson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

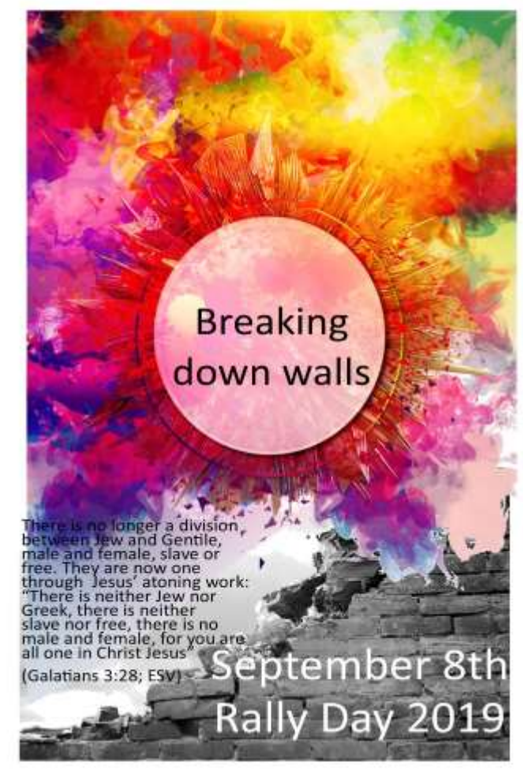
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
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Robert & Kitsie Miller

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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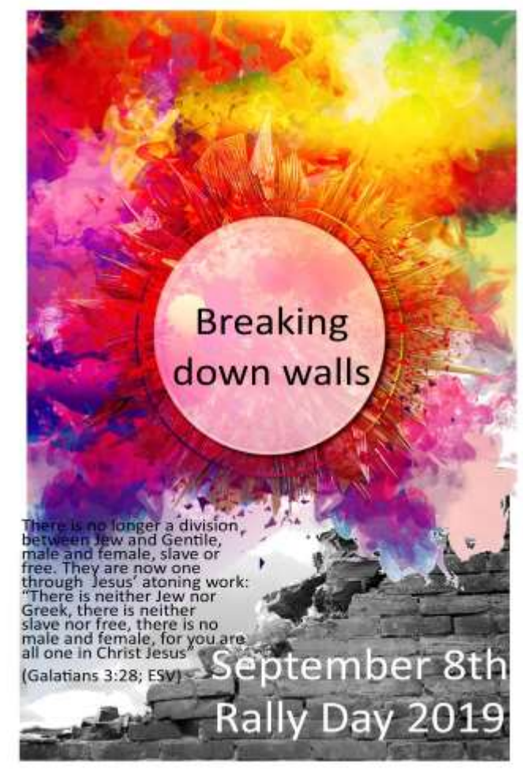

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29212-3333

SEPTEMBER

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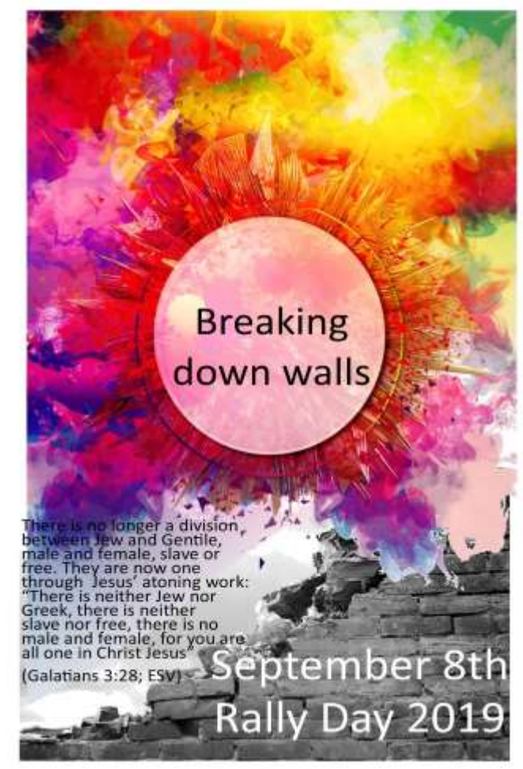

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Robert & Kitsie Miller
134 Chestnut Woods Lane
Columbia SC 29212-2820

SEPTEMBER

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Pete & Marty Spearman

SEVEN OAKS
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alice@sopc.net

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Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

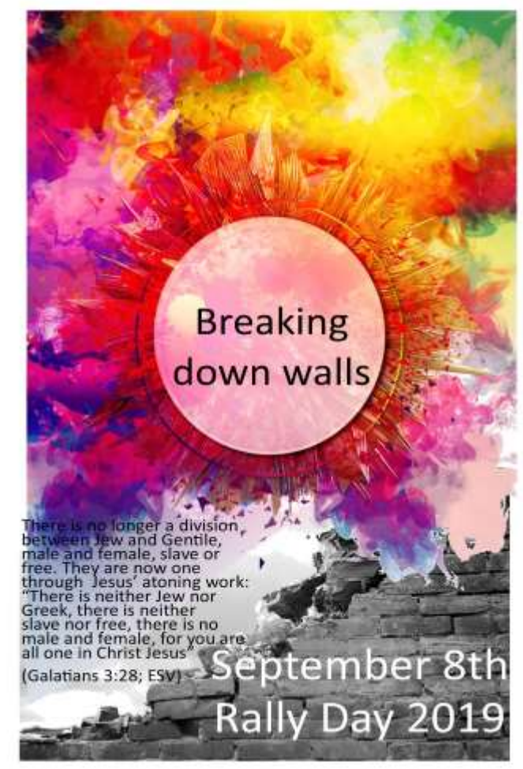
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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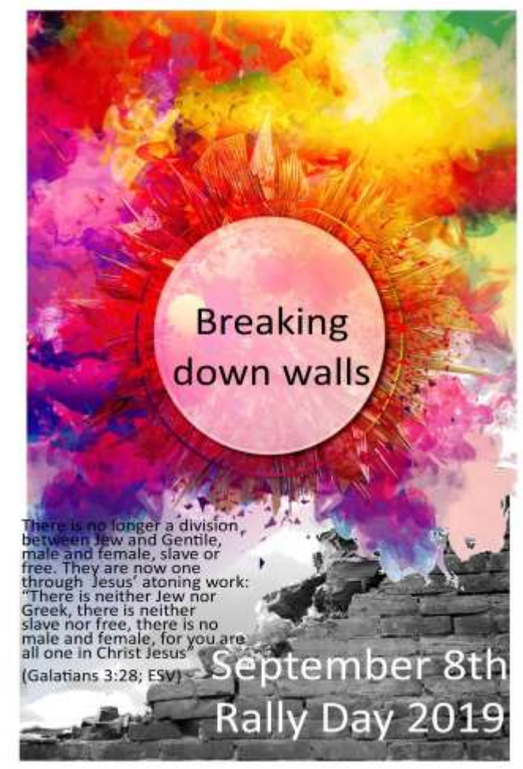

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Donna Moore
1738 Nursery Hill Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-1407

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Savannah Tapler

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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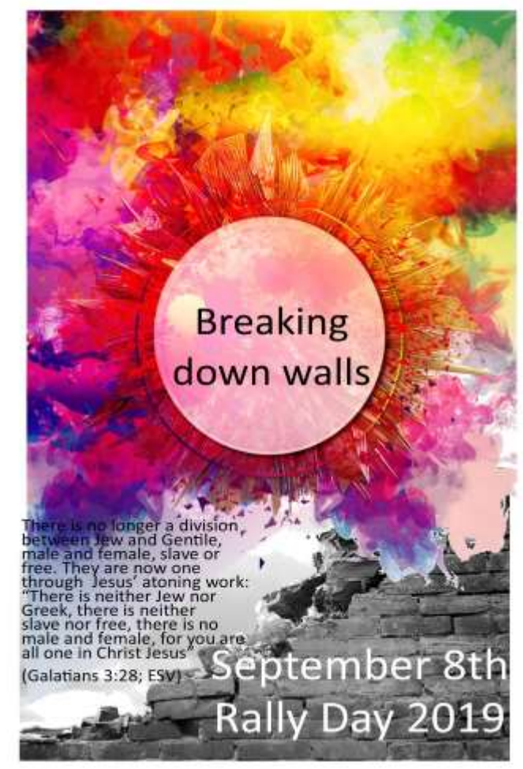

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Kathryn Morganelli
27 Split Rock Road
Irmo SC 29063

SEPTEMBER

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Patricia Williams

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

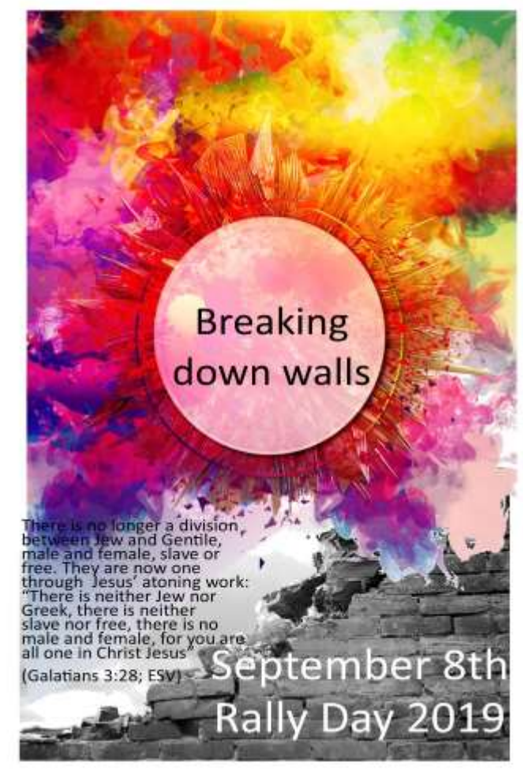
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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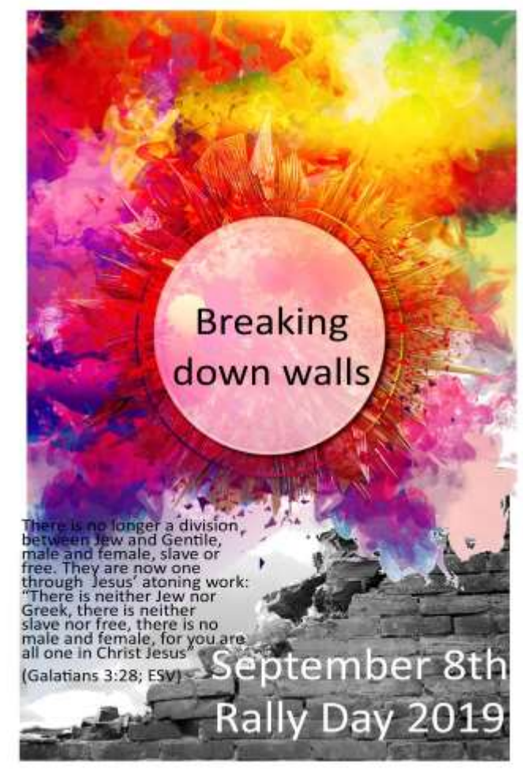

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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300 Willow Winds Dr.
Columbia SC 29210-4458

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

OB & Sarah Drayton

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min.
HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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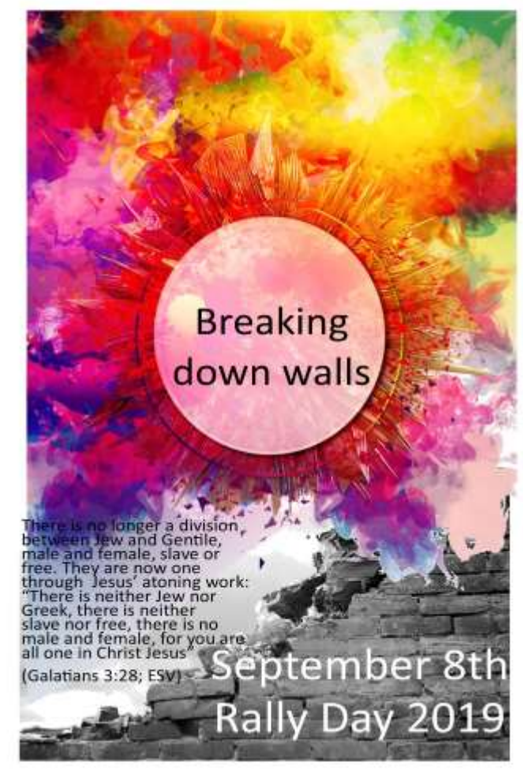

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia, SC

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Jack & Heather Noë
226 Sandstone Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-8266

SEPTEMBER

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Nick and Roni Verenes

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Rev. Alice A. Odell
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Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
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September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Pastor Jana

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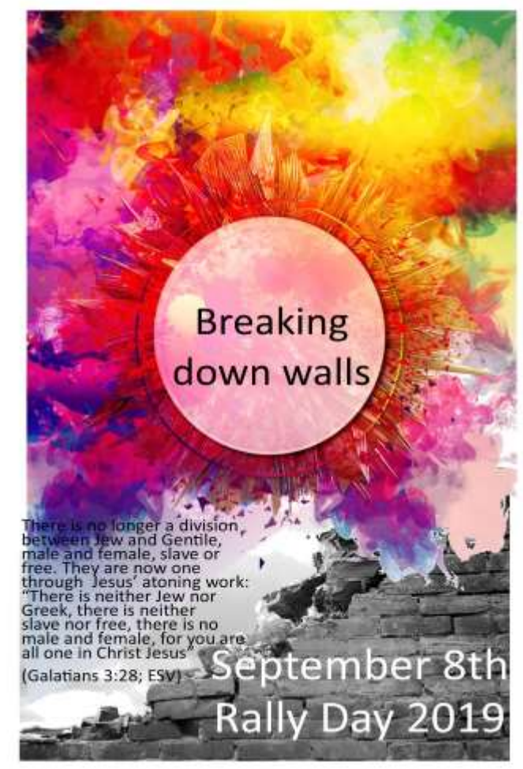

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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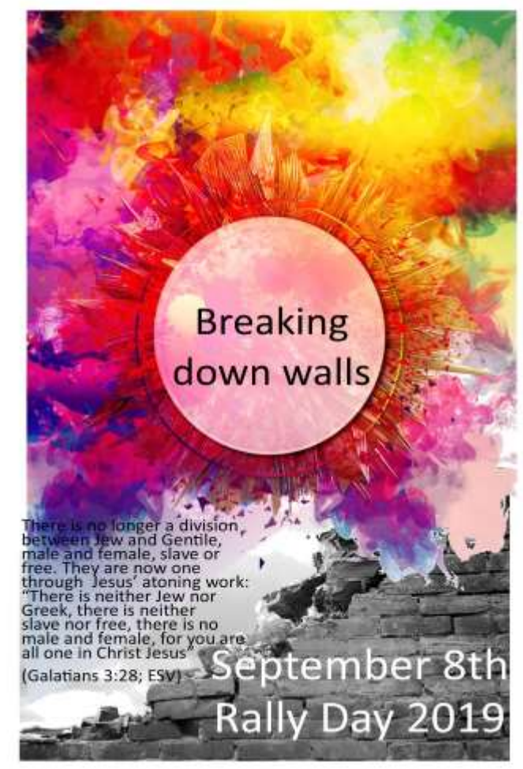

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

David & Rev. Alice Odell
170 Lincreek Dr.
Columbia SC 29212- 8101

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Nancy Humphries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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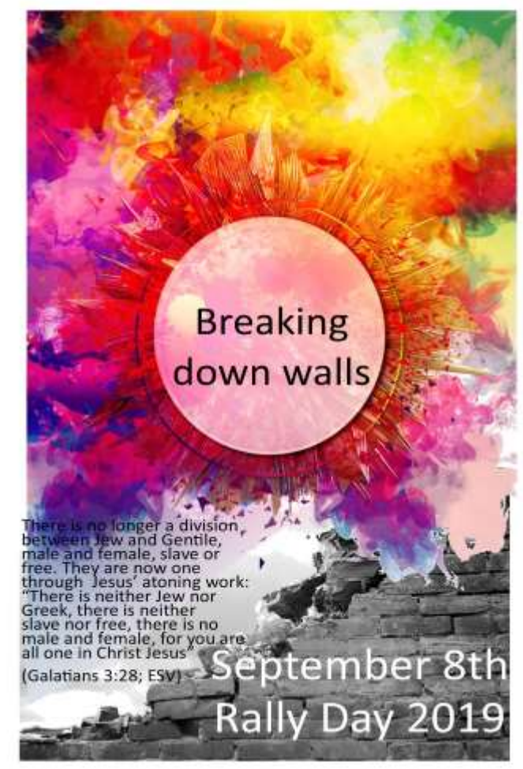

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Nan Foster

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Rev. Alice A. Odell
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Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
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Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
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Mrs. Sharon Watkins
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Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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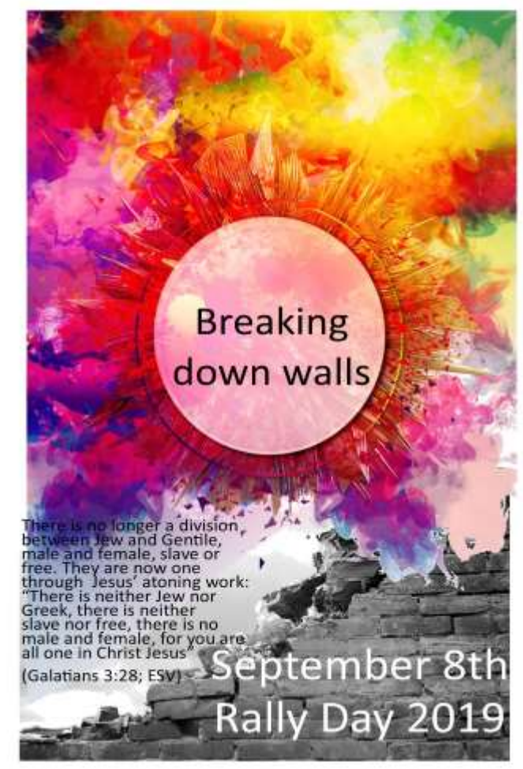

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Irmo SC 29063

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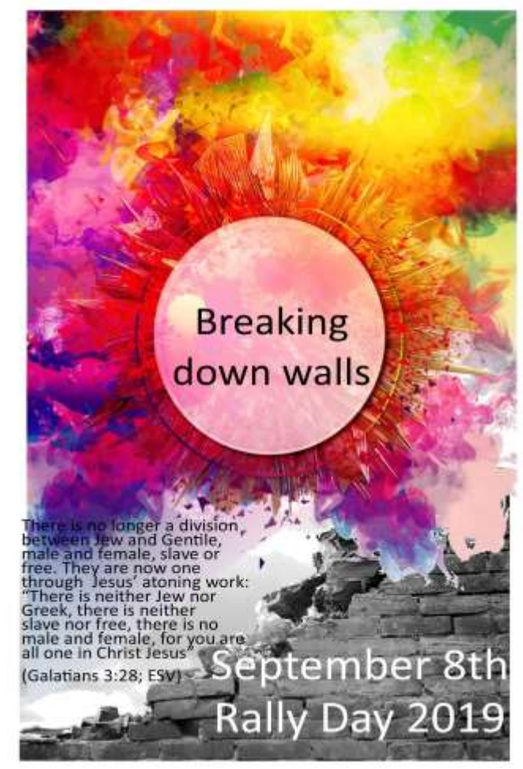

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Sarah Paschal and Family
125 Chillingham Rd.
Irmo SC 29063-2520

SEPTEMBER

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Monroe & Charlotte Swearingen

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min.
HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

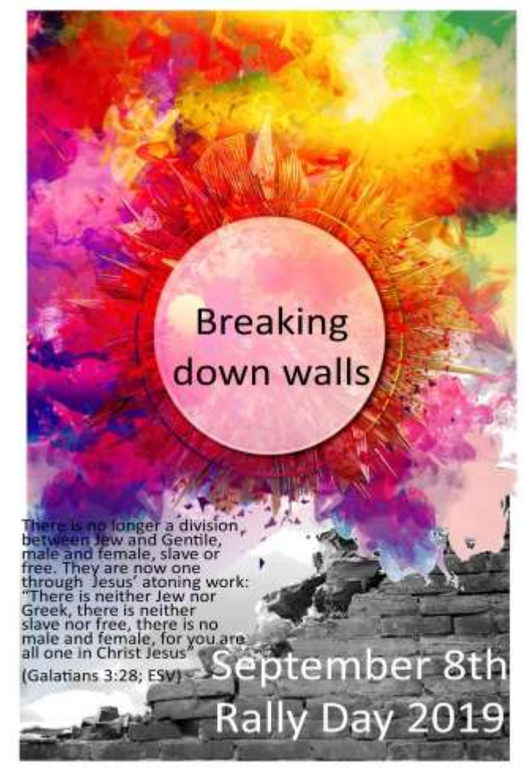
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
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Linda Floyd - Worship
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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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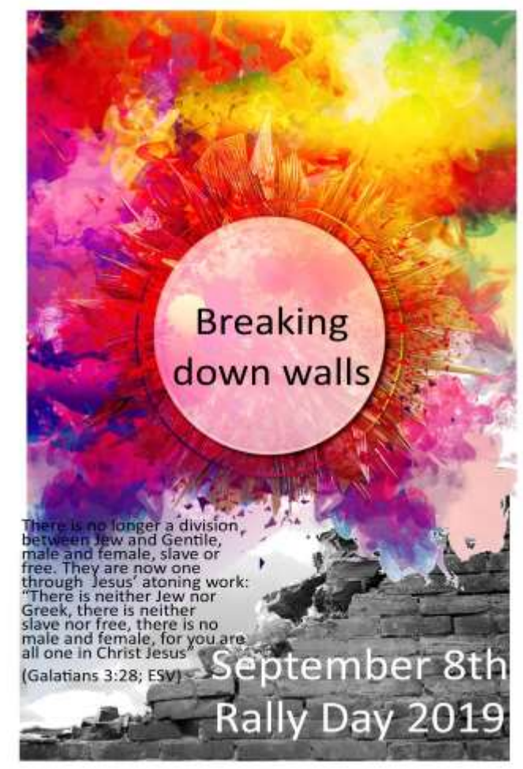

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Kent & Marsha Phillips
320 Old Wood Drive
Columbia SC 29212-2722

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Missy Watts

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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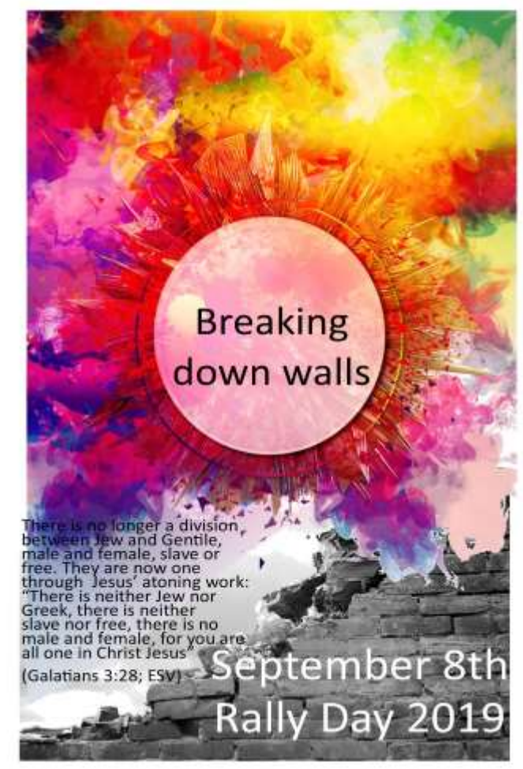

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The Leaf

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Charlaine Pilkington
105 Capital Court
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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Mickey & Claudia Church

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Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jack Noë - Good News
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Treasurer Hal Bowman

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September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

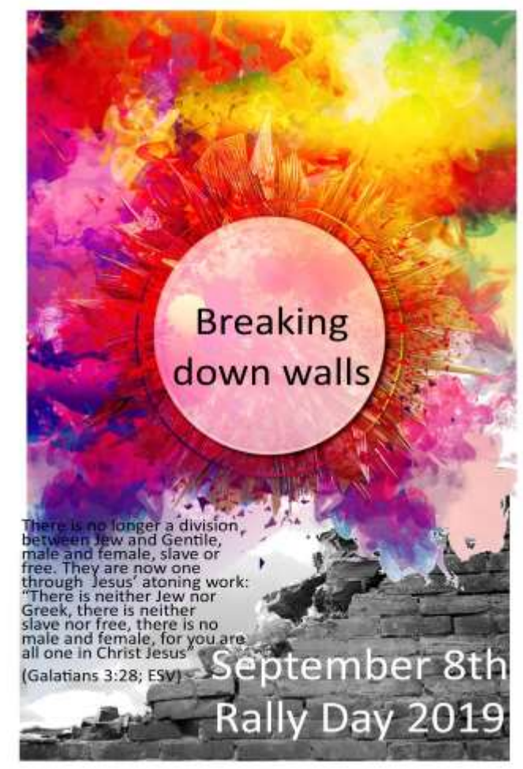
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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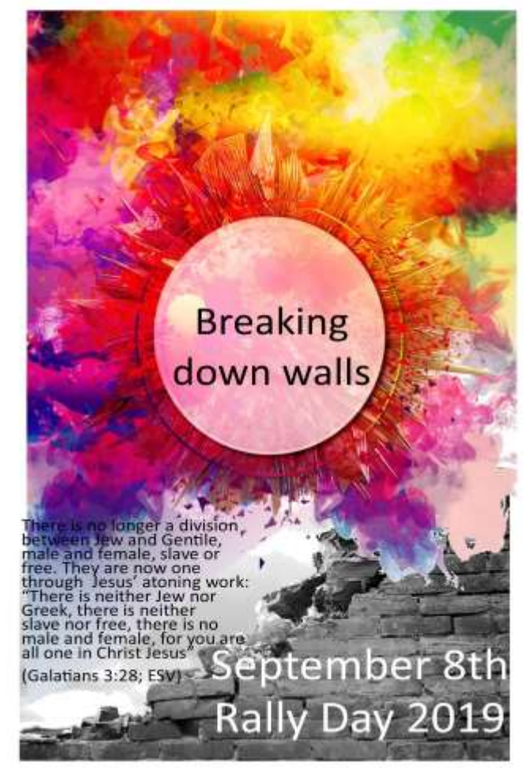

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Stephanie Pilkington
25 Glenhawk Loop
Irmo SC 29063

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Martha Hallbick

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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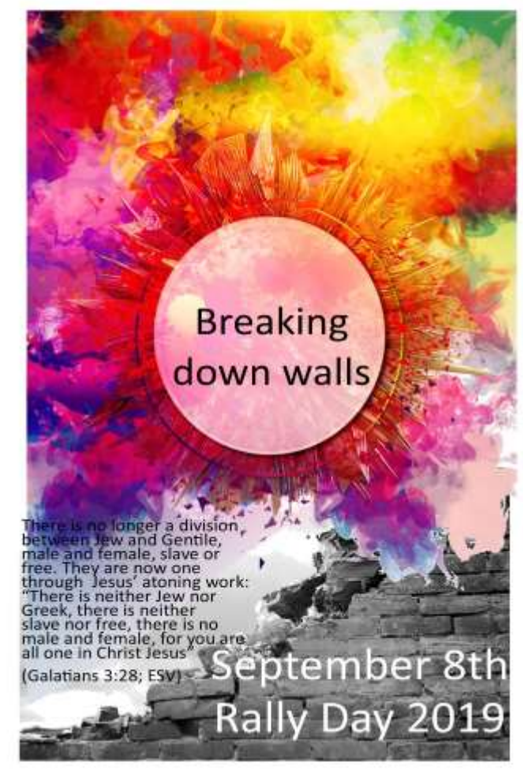

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Mark Ingram

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
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Frank Sheppard

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The Leaf

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

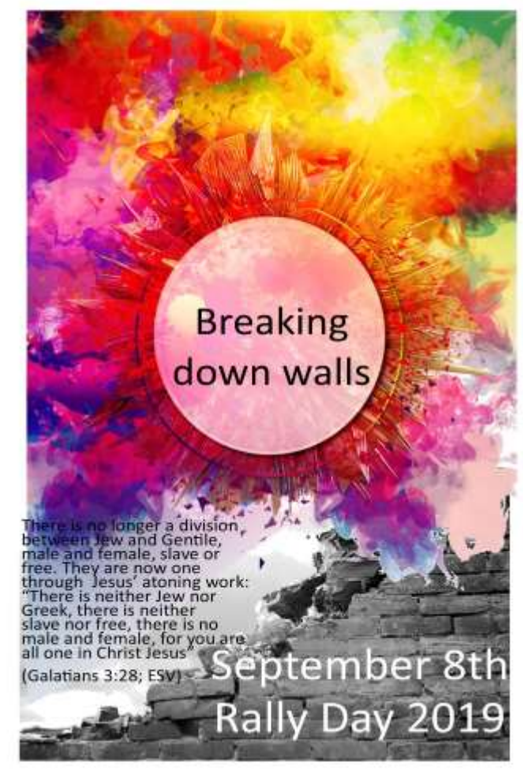
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

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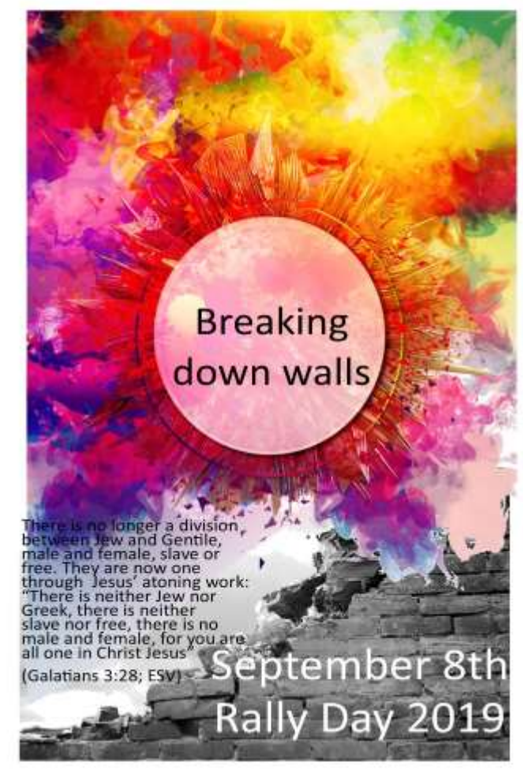

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Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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437 Sulgrave Dr.
Columbia SC 29210-4227

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Mark & Stephanie Pilkington and Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

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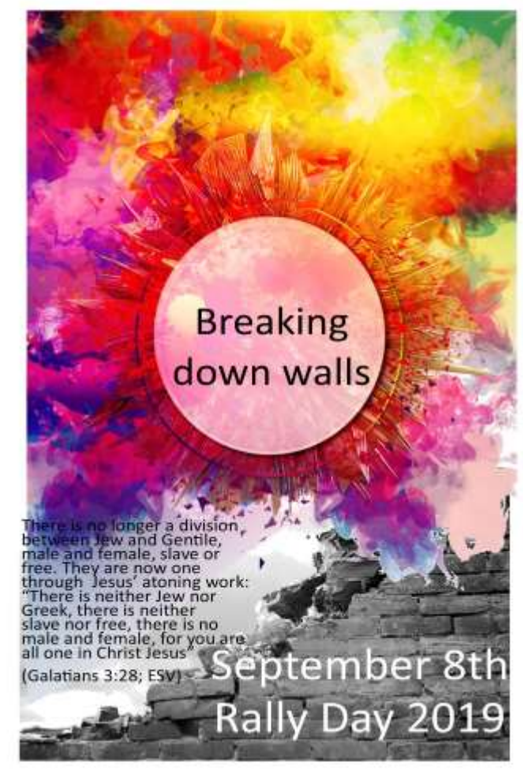

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29210-4442

SEPTEMBER

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Mark & Mary Johnson

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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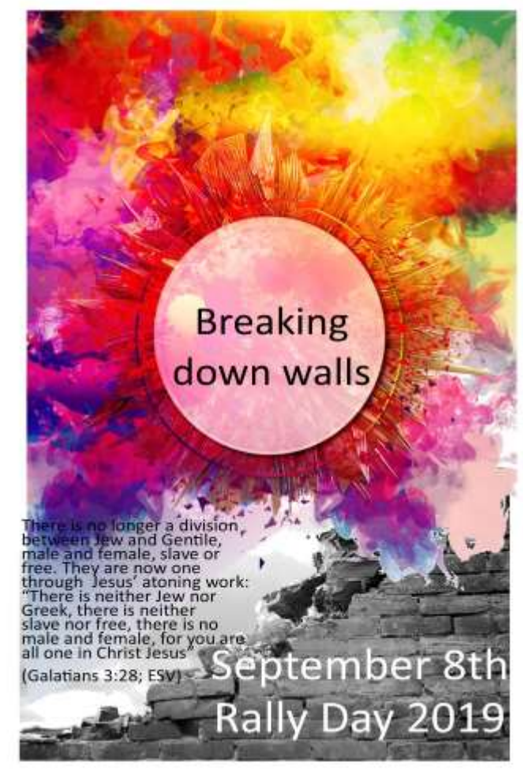

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1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

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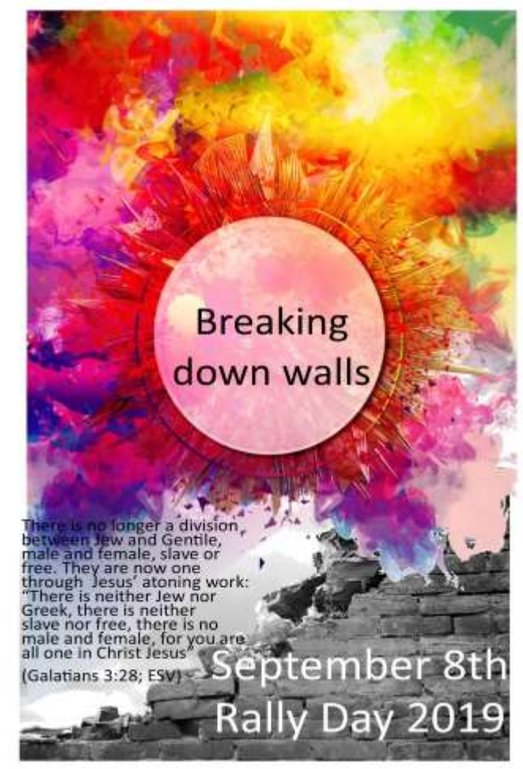

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Sarah Robinson
300 White Falls Dr
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Margaret Royals

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

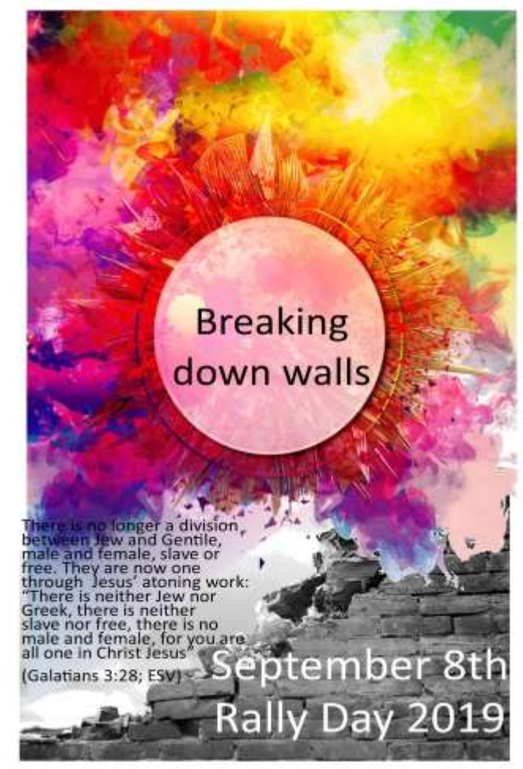
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
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Mae Leviner

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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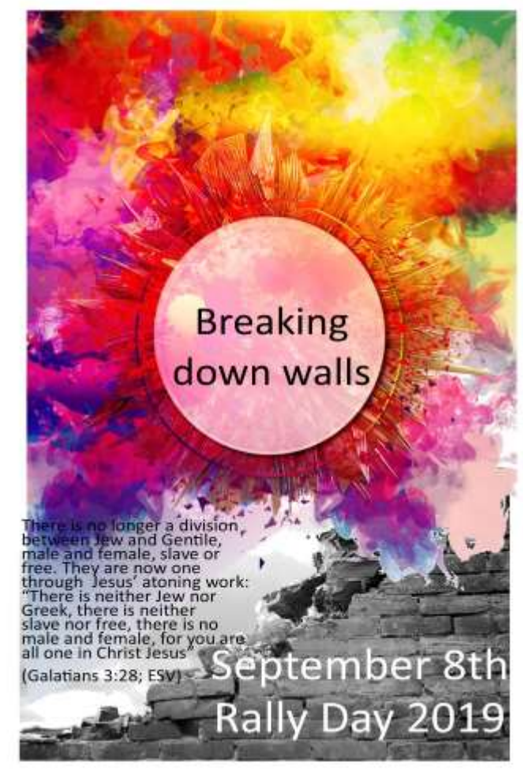

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Vern & Alene Rogers
640 Willowood Parkway
Chapin SC 29036-8856

SEPTEMBER

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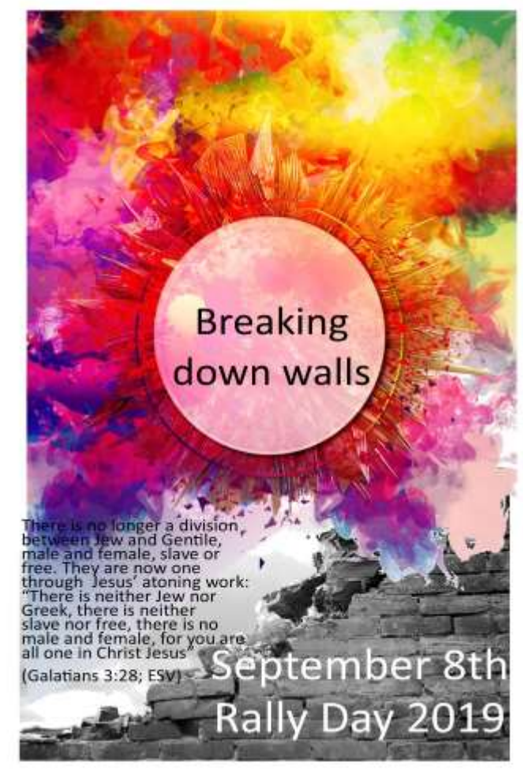

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Margaret Royals
109 Misty Meadows Ct
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

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Lloyd & Tina Pilkington

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

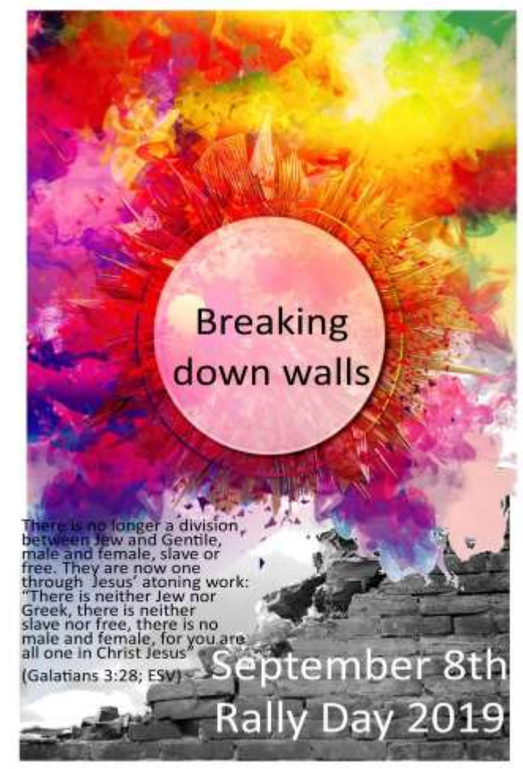
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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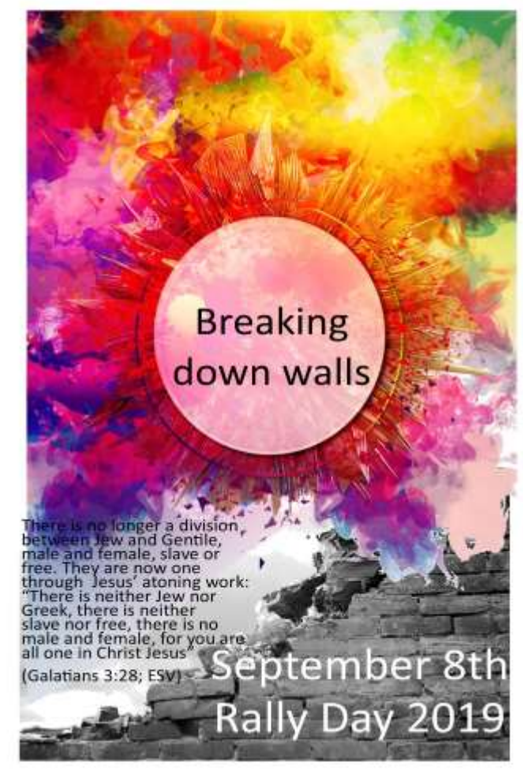

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   a. $100 Level
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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember this trip for a long time!!!!

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Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Mary Sandifer
7101 Bay Front Dr. Apt. 424
Annapolis MD 21403

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Linda Floyd

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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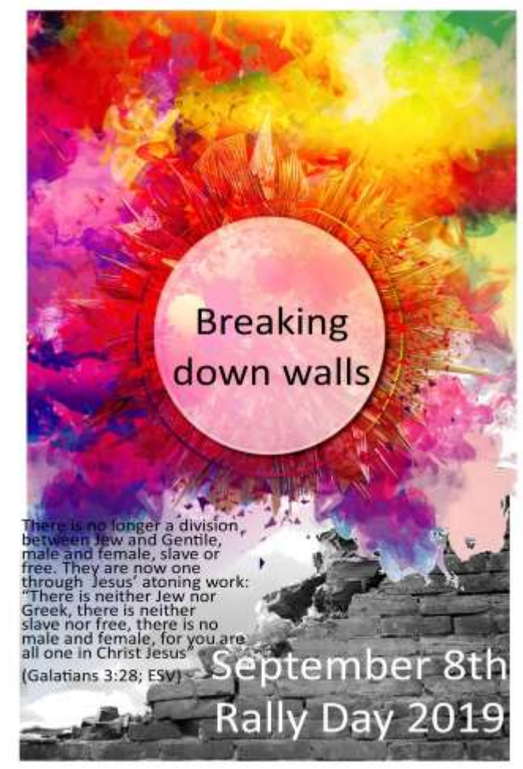

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

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Linda Schiesser
123 Cokesdale Rd.
Columbia SC 29212-2516

SEPTEMBER

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Kris & Mary Dempster and Family

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

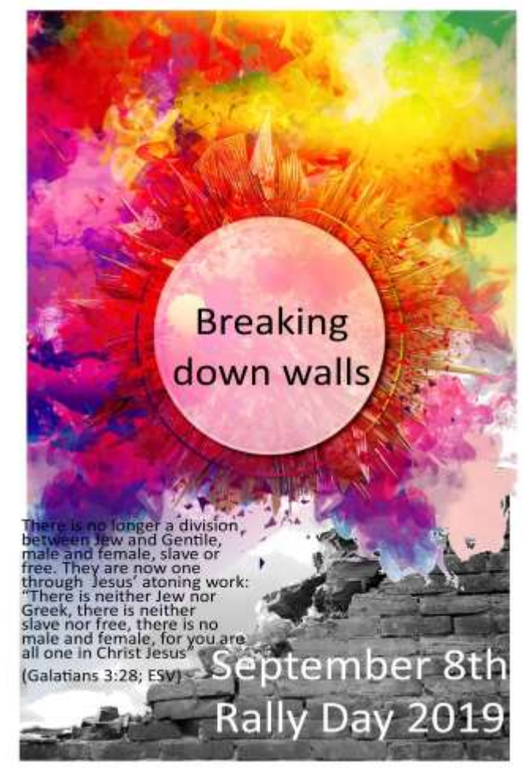
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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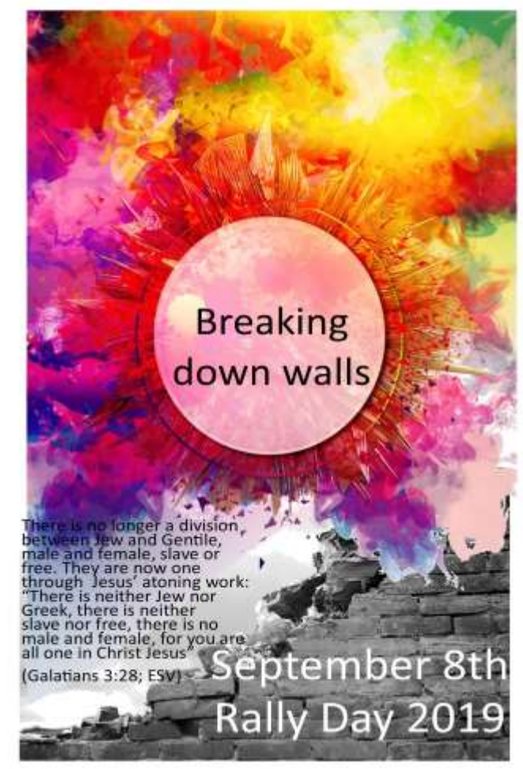

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14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Amy Schwartz
421 Coops Ct.
West Columbia SC 29170-2493

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Kent & Marsha Phillips

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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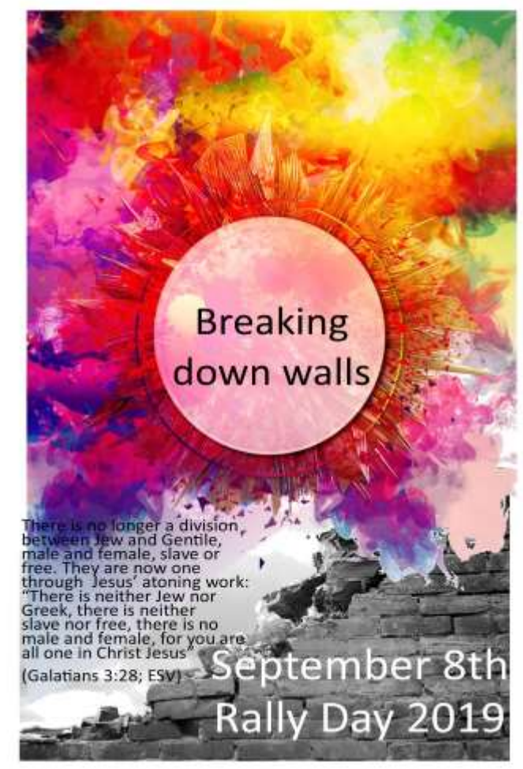

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Ken & Sharon Watkins

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Pastor Jana

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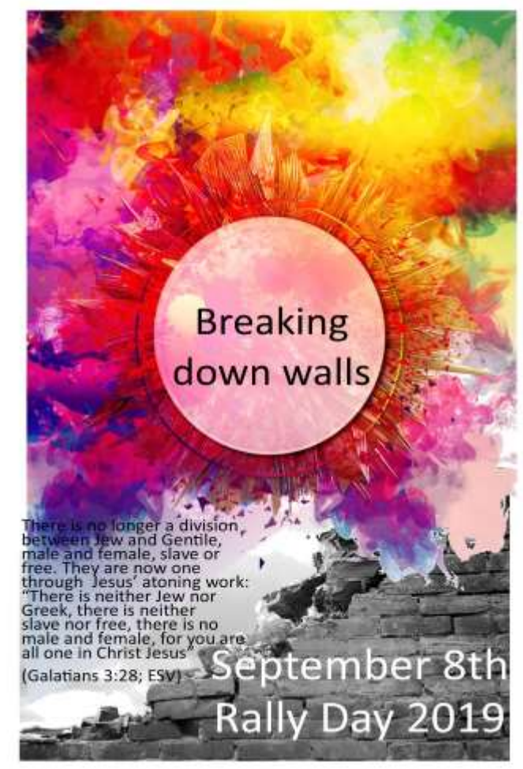

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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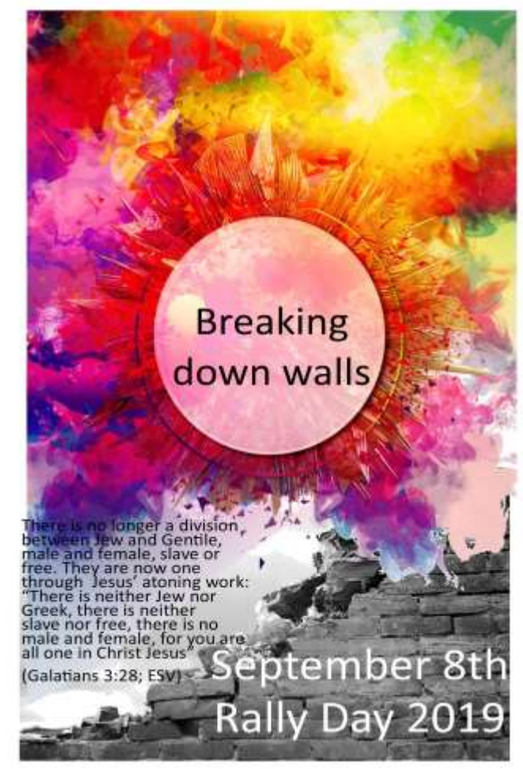

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Frank & Tina Sheppard
1304 Shirley St.
Columbia SC 29205

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Ken & Marilyn O'Mellan

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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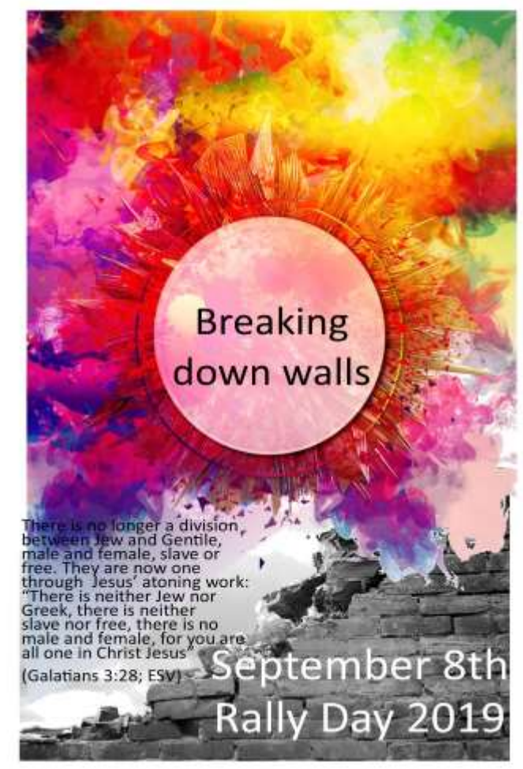

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Kathy Keane

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Lucretia Seigler
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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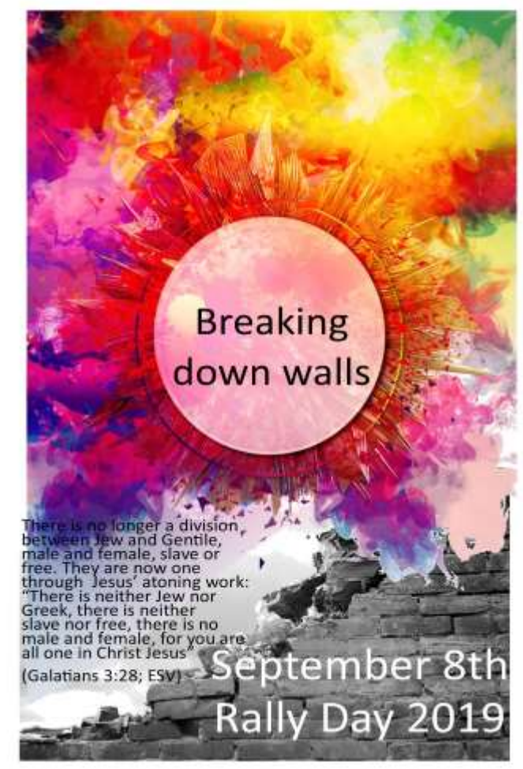

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Chapin SC 29036-8311

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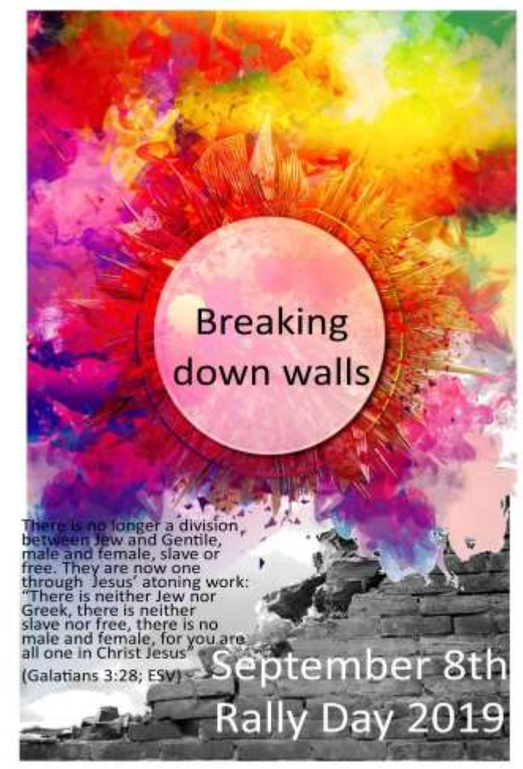

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The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Sharon Staton
467 Kettering Drive
Columbia SC 29210-4239

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Kathie Cashion

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

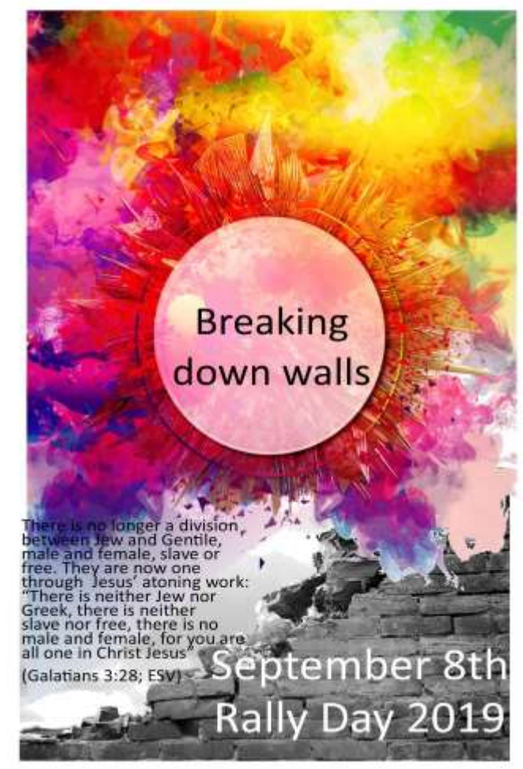
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
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Linda Floyd - Worship
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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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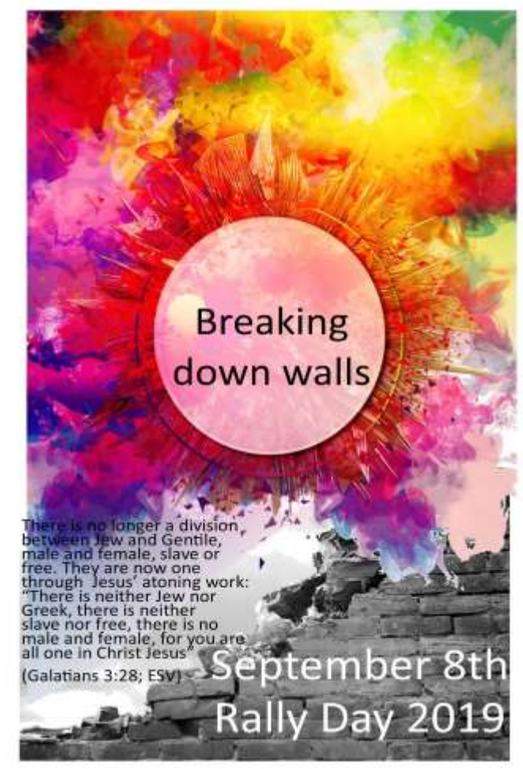

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Jesse Summerlin
421 Coops Ct.
West Columbia SC 29170

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Justin & Misty Werner and Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

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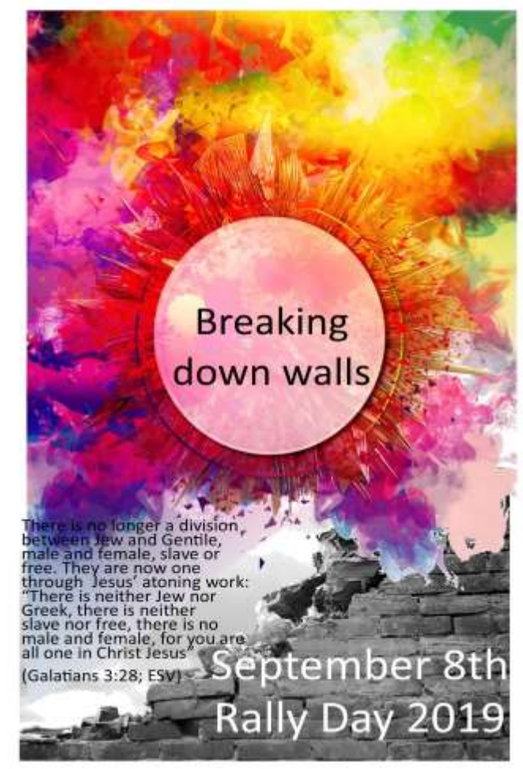

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Jennifer Swearingen
422 Rotherwood Dr.
Charleston SC 29407

SEPTEMBER

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June Burkhalter

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Parish Associate
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The Leaf

September 2019

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This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

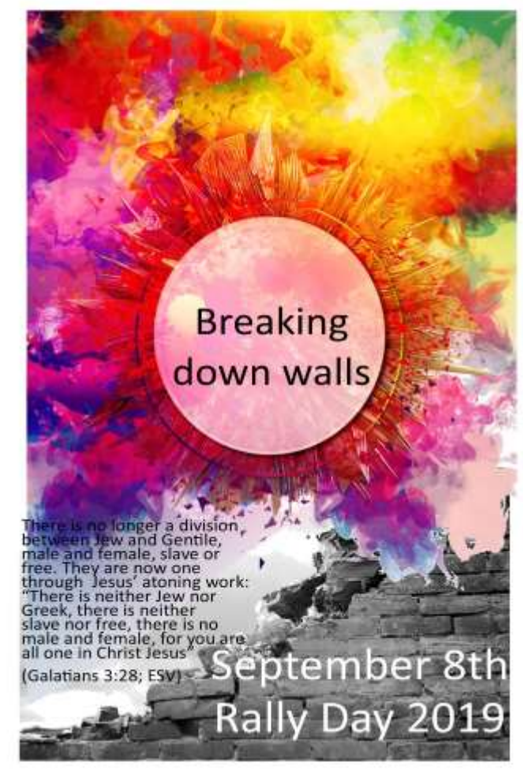
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

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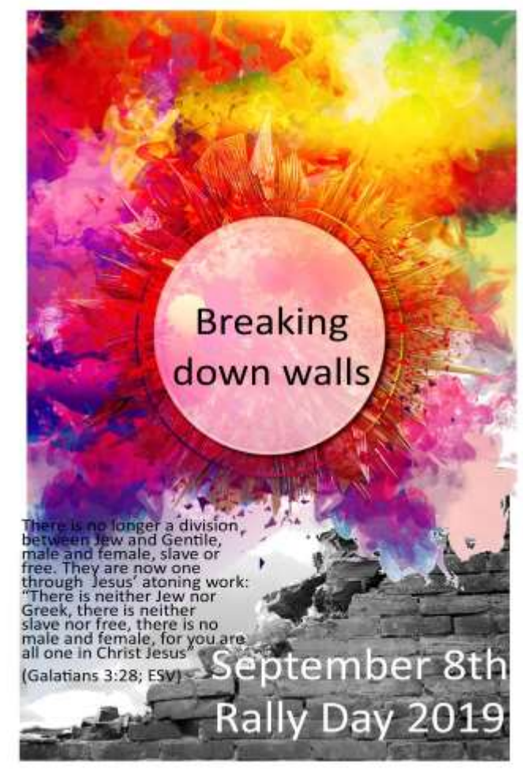

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Savannah Tapler
638 Meadow Grass Lane
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Jonathan & Sarah Park and Family

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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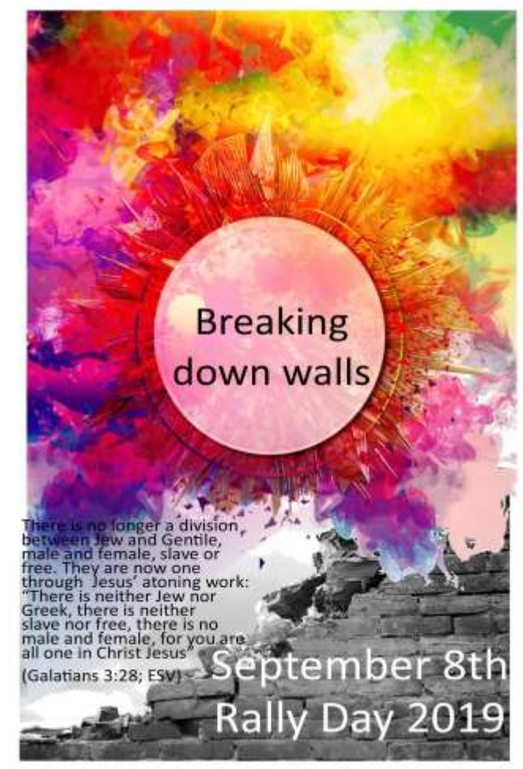

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Darren & Rebecca
362 Heatherstone Road
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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Johnadee White

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min.
HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

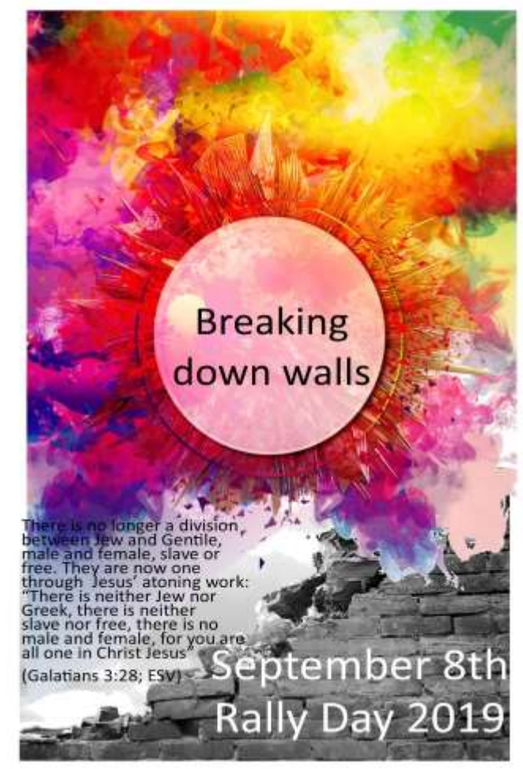
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
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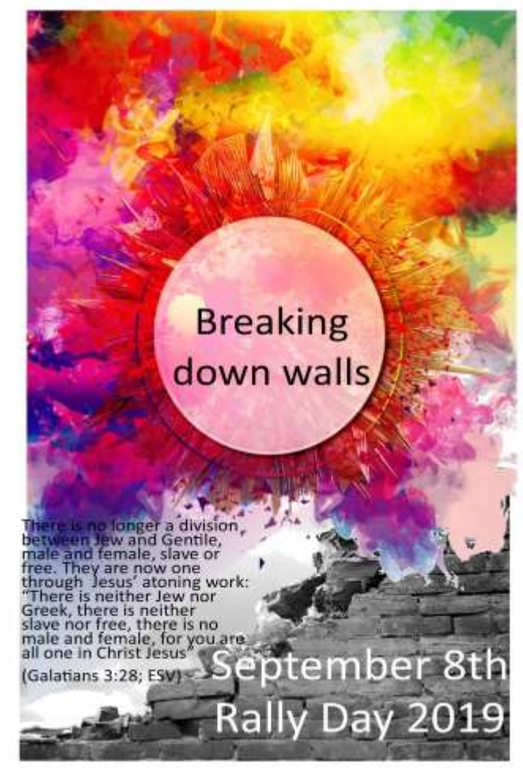

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SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jim & Elizabeth Taylor
1314 Quail Valley W.
Columbia SC 29212-1553

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

John McCulloch

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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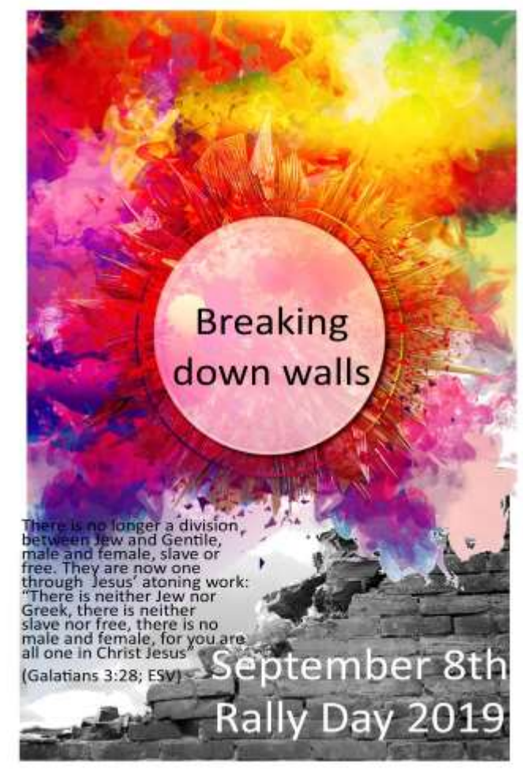

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Brenda Turner
144 Westbury Pl.
Columbia SC 29212-8351

SEPTEMBER

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John & Tara Whitfield

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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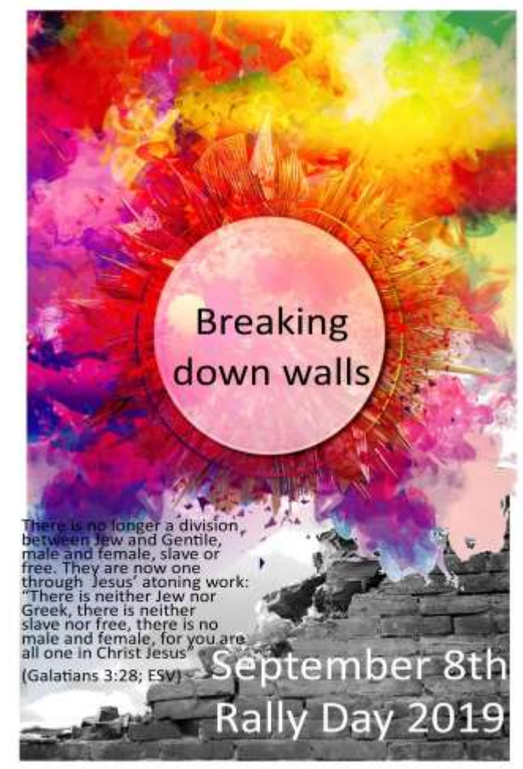

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Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

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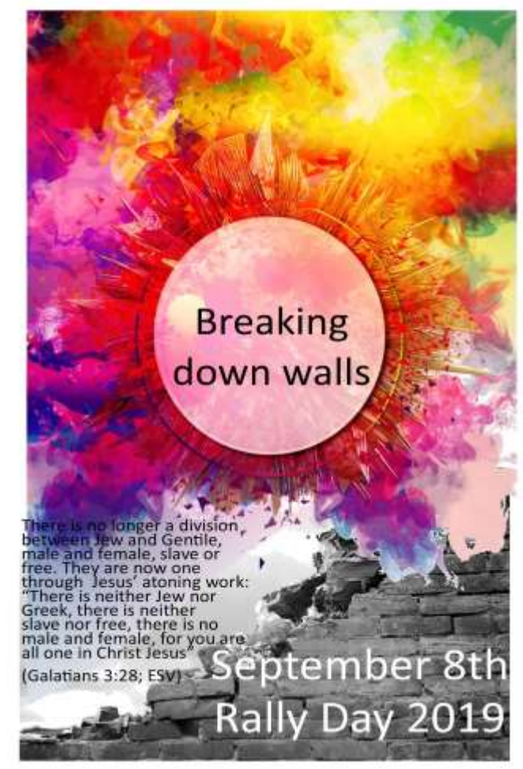

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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John Vousden
700 DaVega Drive, Unit 13
Lexington SC 29073-7472

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

John & Betty Anderson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

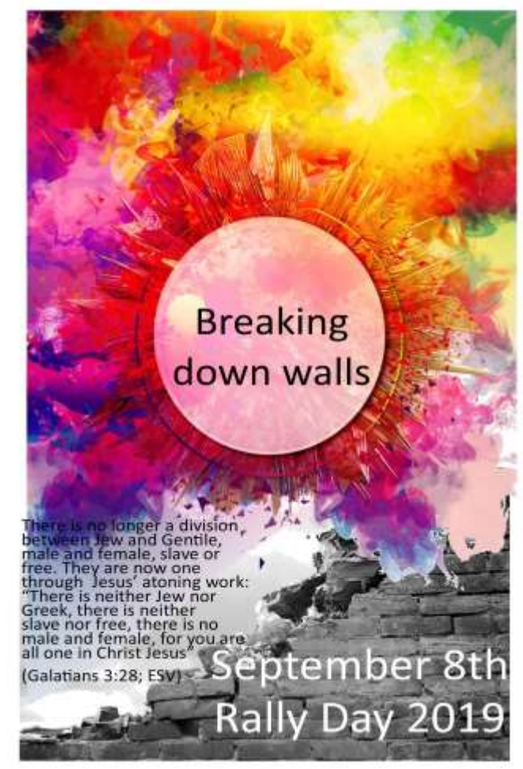
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

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Joe & Myrna Gause

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
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Mrs. Sharon Watkins
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Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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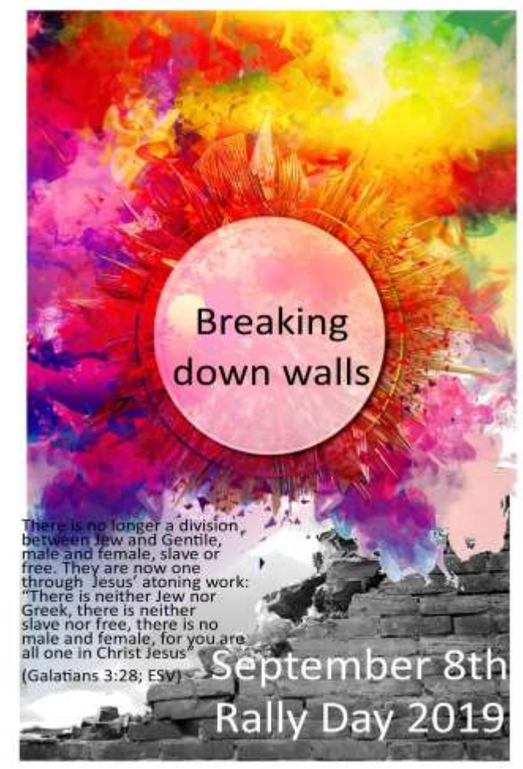

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Mark Wishart & Marion Watson-Wishart
1349 Ellison Road
Columbia SC 29206

SEPTEMBER

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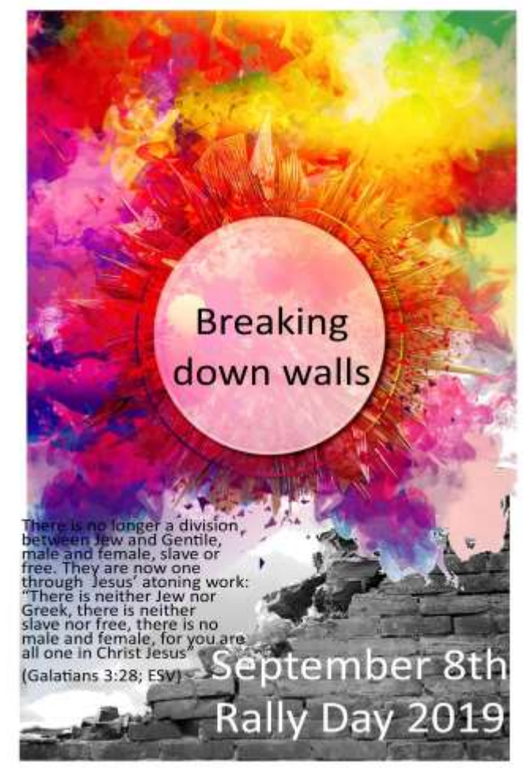

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Start planning NOW for the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women. If you start putting aside $30/month now, you will have all the money you need for the largest gathering of women of the Presbyterian church. Mark your calendars and join me in St.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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Justin & Misty Werner and Family
3 Beaconfield Ct.
Irmo SC 29063-7941

SEPTEMBER

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Jim & Patty Mullins

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

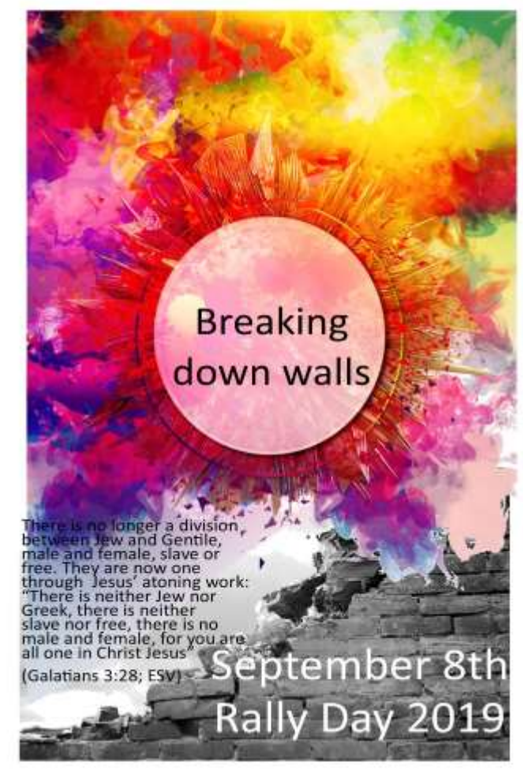
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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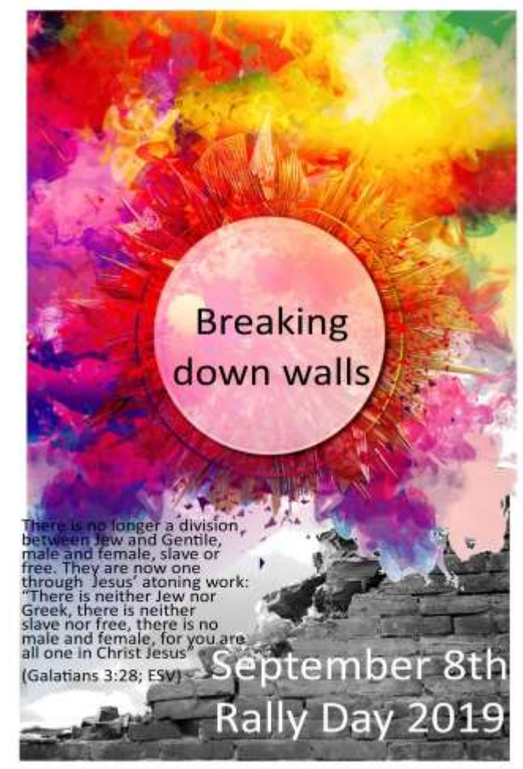

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

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Missy Watts
140 Jeffeson Place
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Donna Moore

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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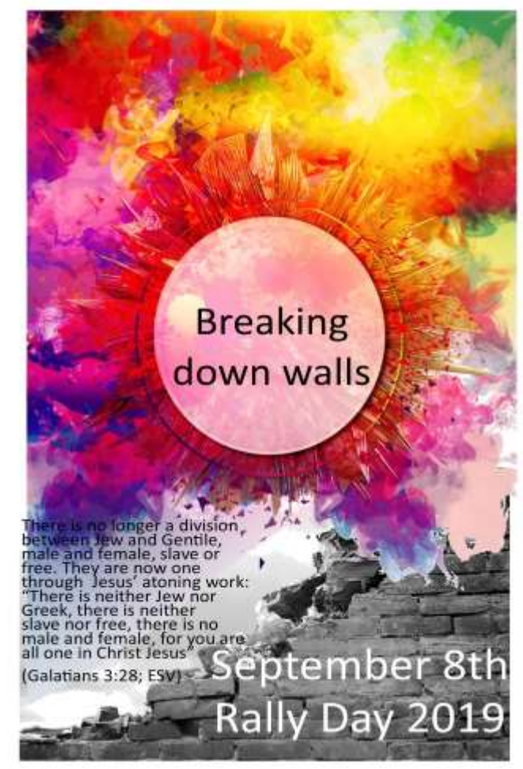

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia SC 29212

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Jesse Summerlin

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

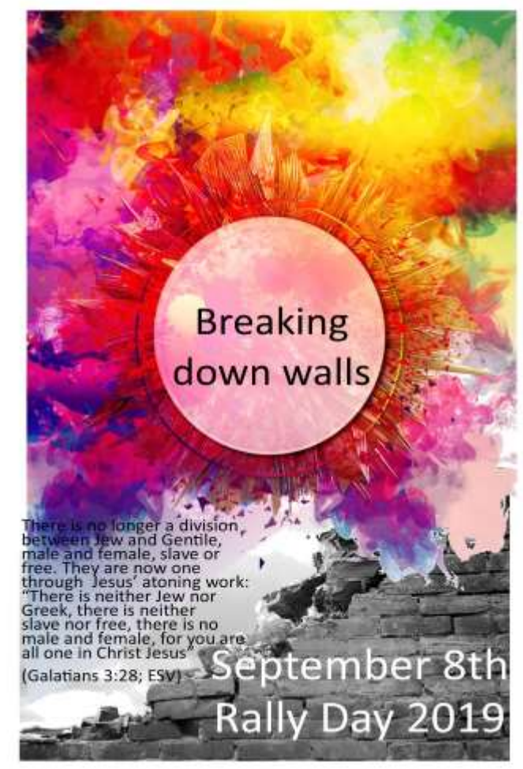
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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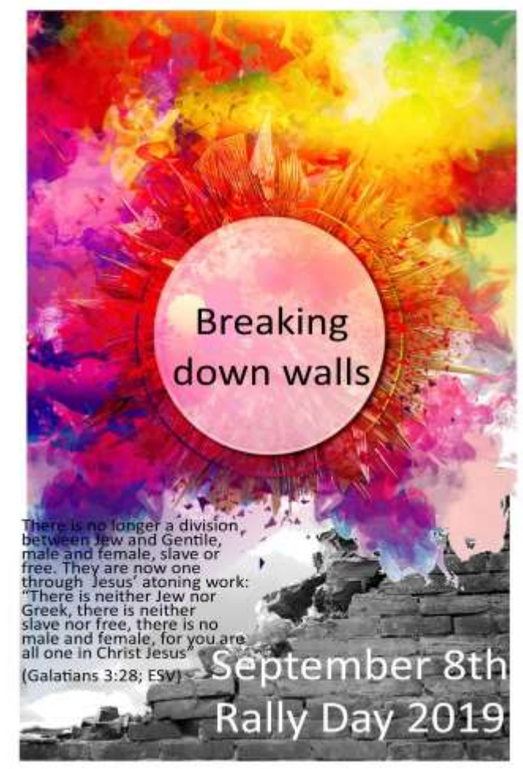

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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April White
1127 Old Swamp Rd
Swansea SC 29160

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Jennifer Swearingen

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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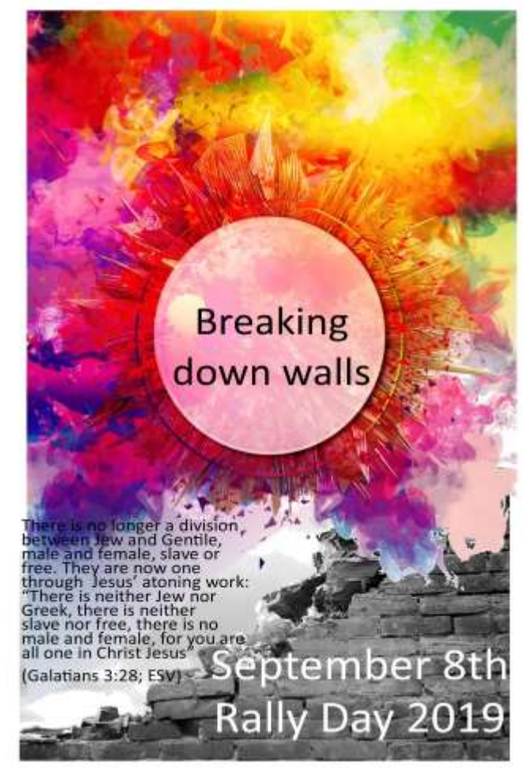

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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John & Tara Whitfield
1796 Cedarbrook Dr.
Columbia SC 29212-2000

SEPTEMBER

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Jeanne LeBoeuf

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
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September 2019

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Pastor Jana

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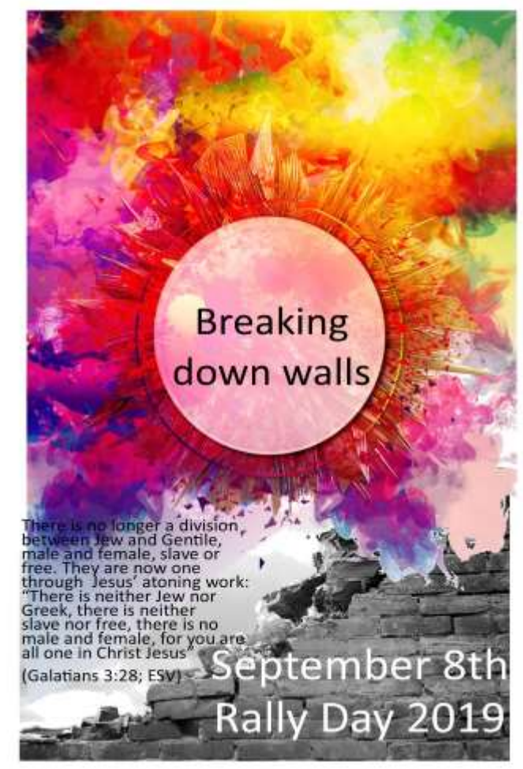

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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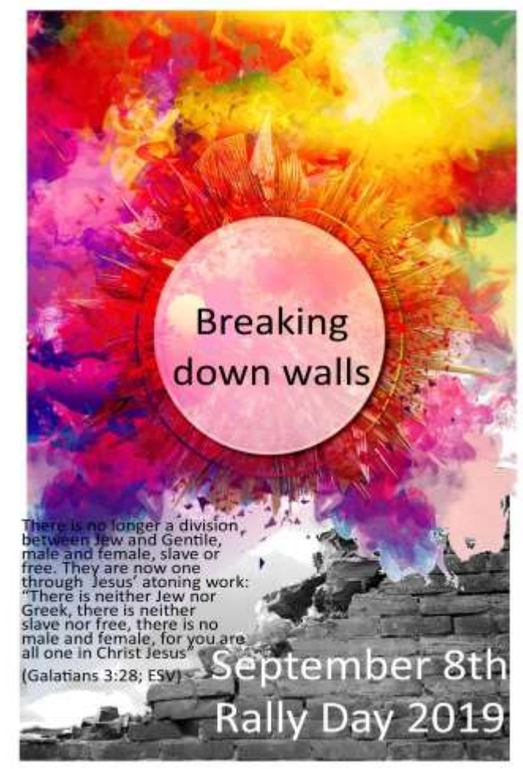

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Dave & Carol Will and Family
2625 Falls Overlook Dr.
Cumming GA 30041-5743

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Jay Robinson

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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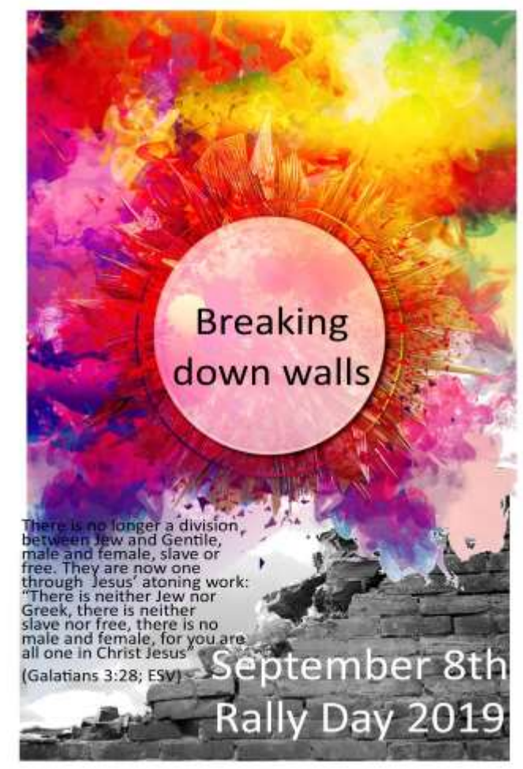

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Janice Reiser

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

September 2019

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REV. JANA CREIGHTON
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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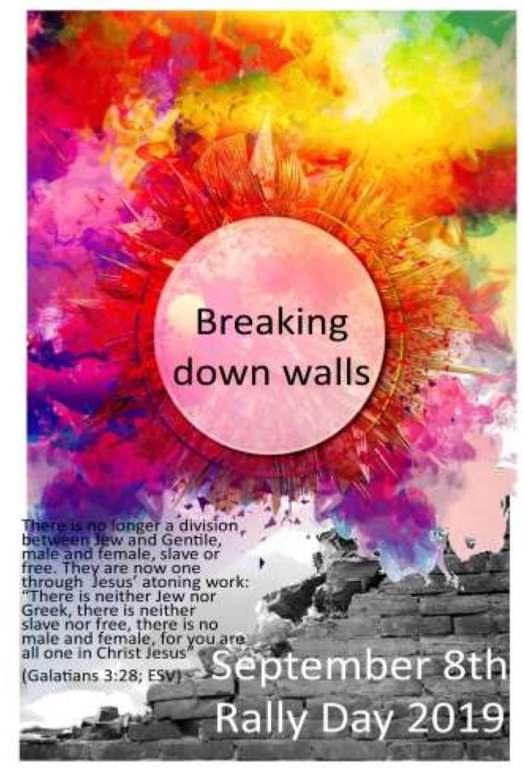

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September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Patricia Williams
700 Davega Drive Unit 125
Lexington SC 29073

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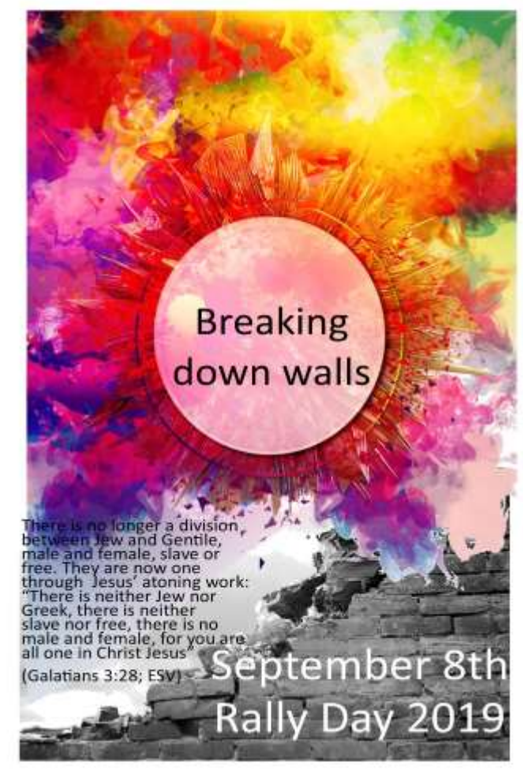

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Shelagh Wirth
110 Robin Forest Drive
West Columbia SC 29170-2304

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Jana and Rusty Creighton

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

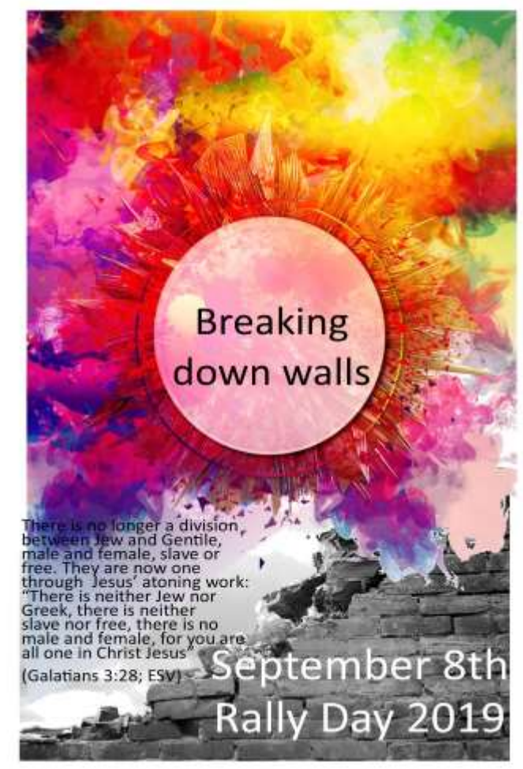
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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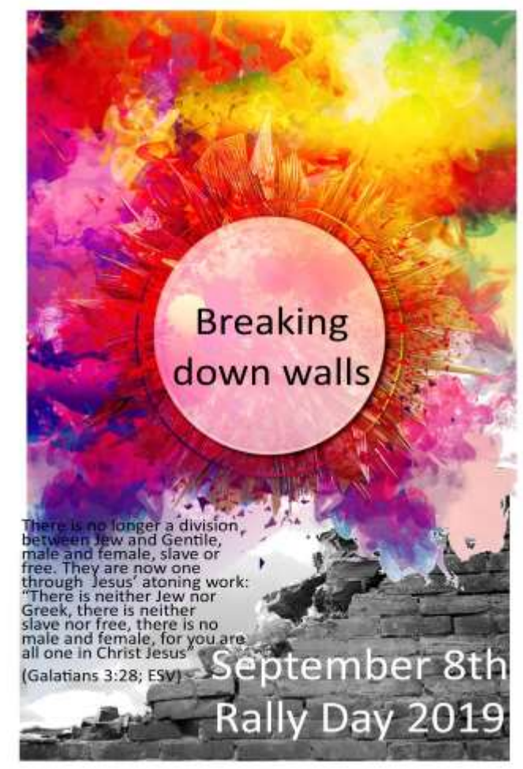

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29210

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Jim and Anne Hill

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Leaf

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REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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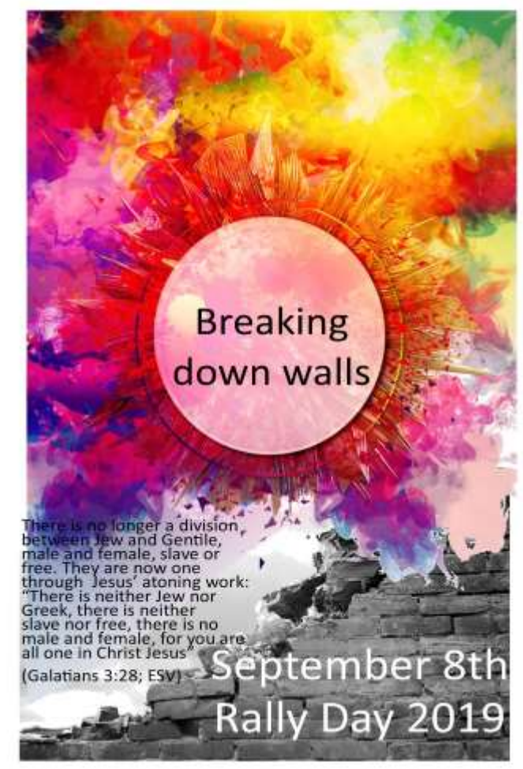

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
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Allison Family
314 Leton Dr.
Columbia SC 29210

SEPTEMBER

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Kirk and Shelagh Wirth

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

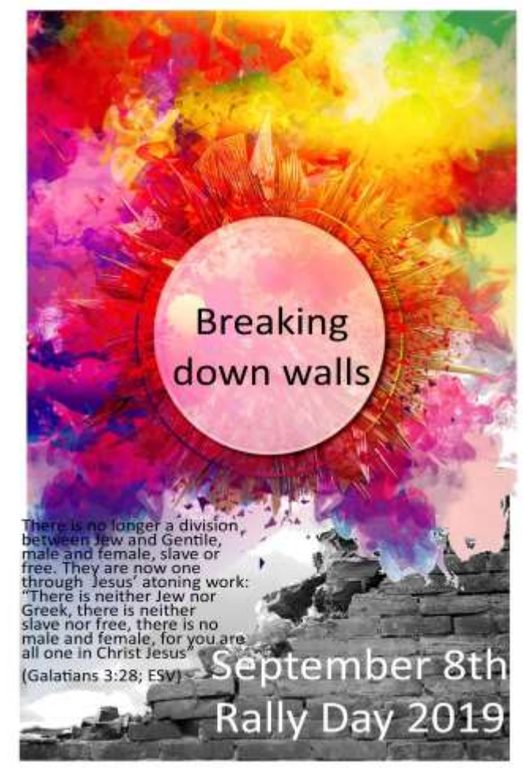
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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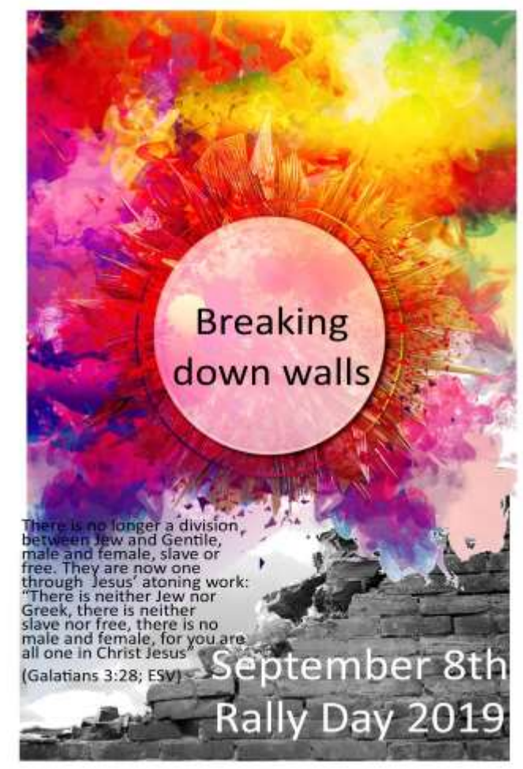

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Ed & Frances Ayers
117 Hunter Lane
Savannah GA 31405-1040

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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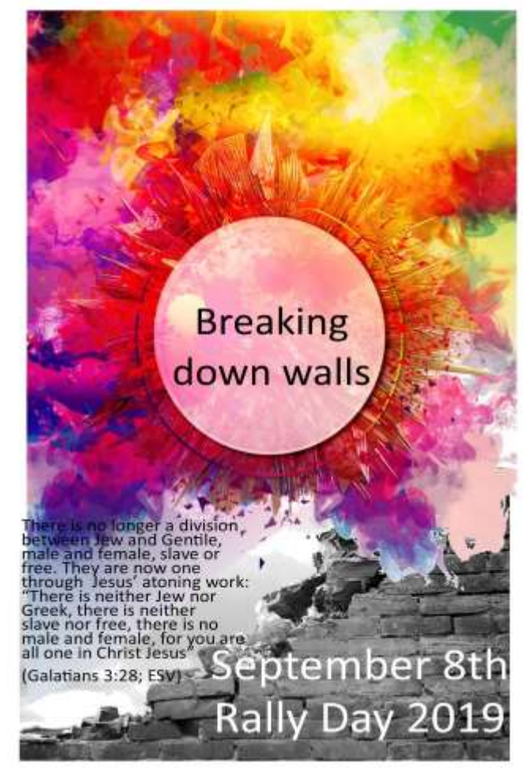

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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The Leaf

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Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Chris & Leslie Barnes
PO Box 556
Camden SC 29021

SEPTEMBER

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SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

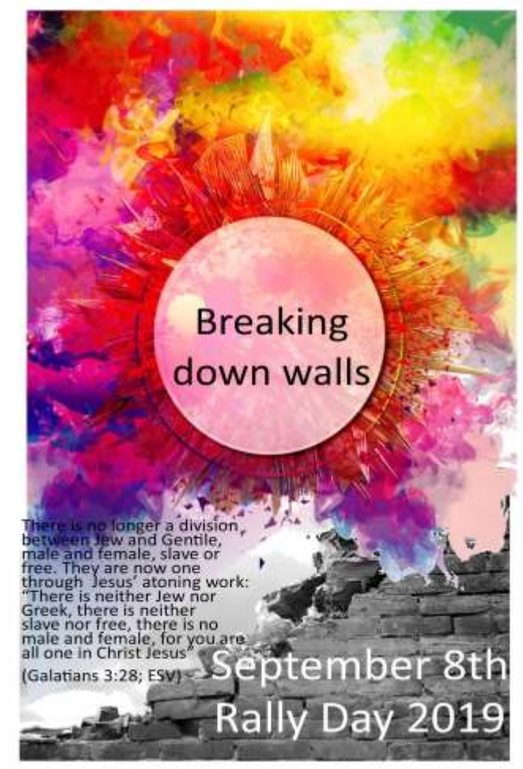
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

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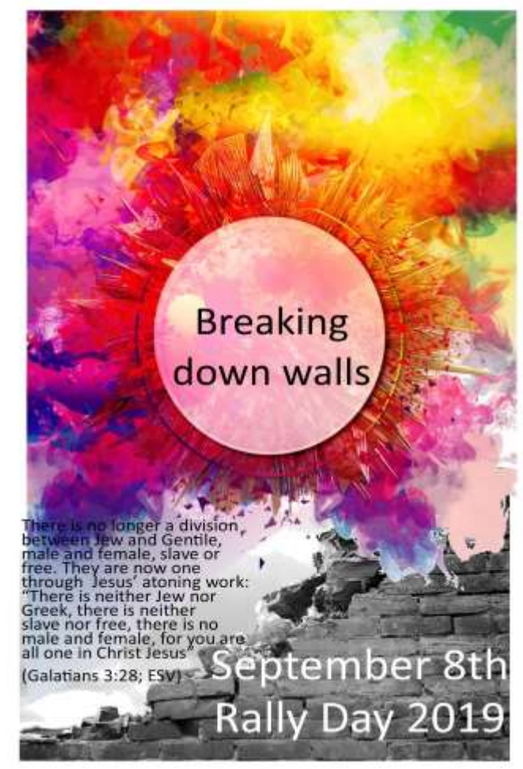

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SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Rev. Julie Walkup Bird
6505 St. Andrews Road
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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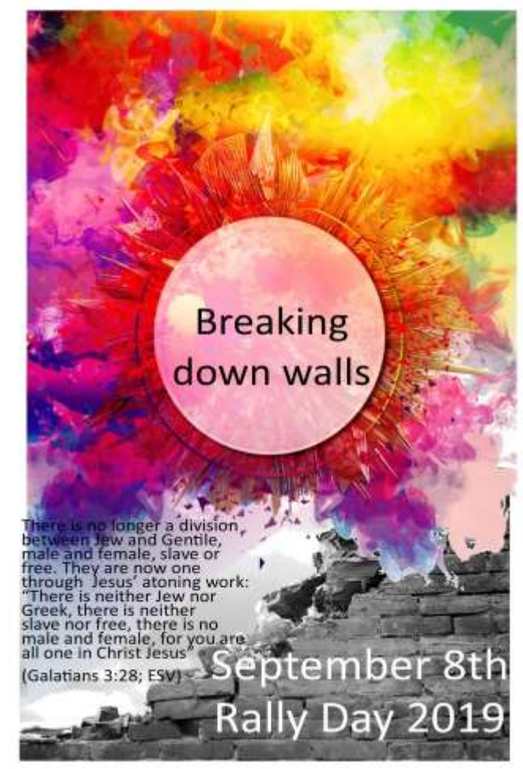

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Gerry & Sandy Brossard
405 Telfair Way
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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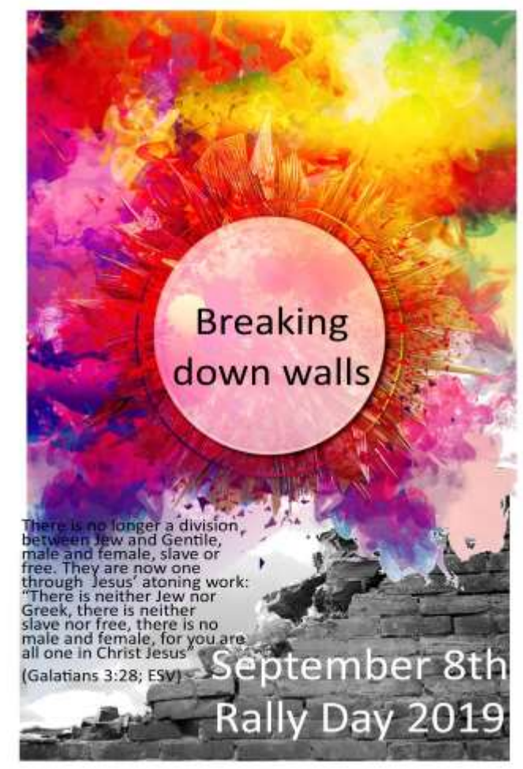

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Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

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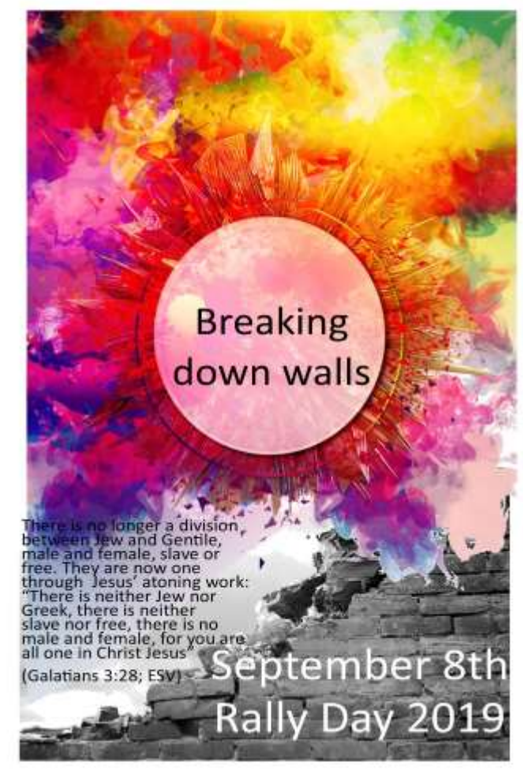

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"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

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BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

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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!!!!

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Matthew & Ann Covington
1412 Sherwood Drive
Bowling Green KY 42103-1434

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

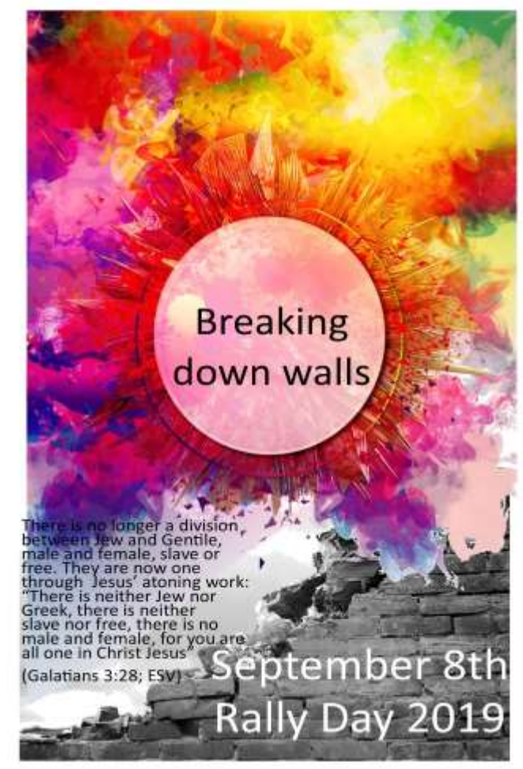
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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Missionaries:
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turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Lucretia Seigler
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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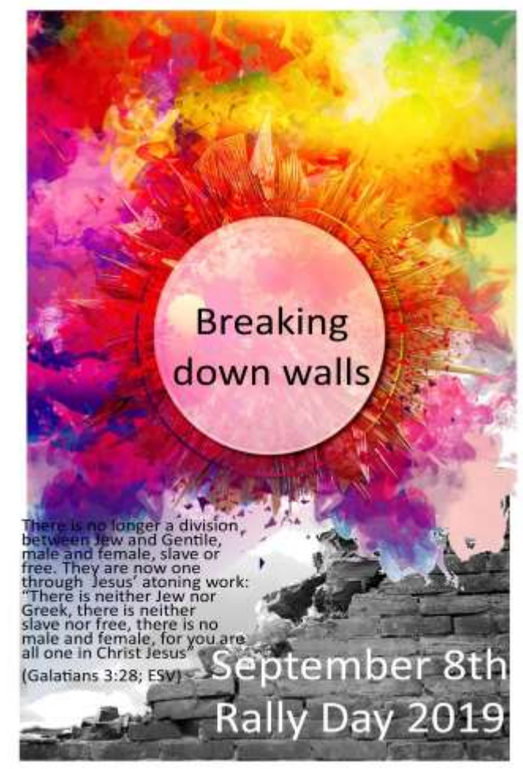

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Michaela Craven
2518 Putnam St
Columbia SC 29204

SEPTEMBER

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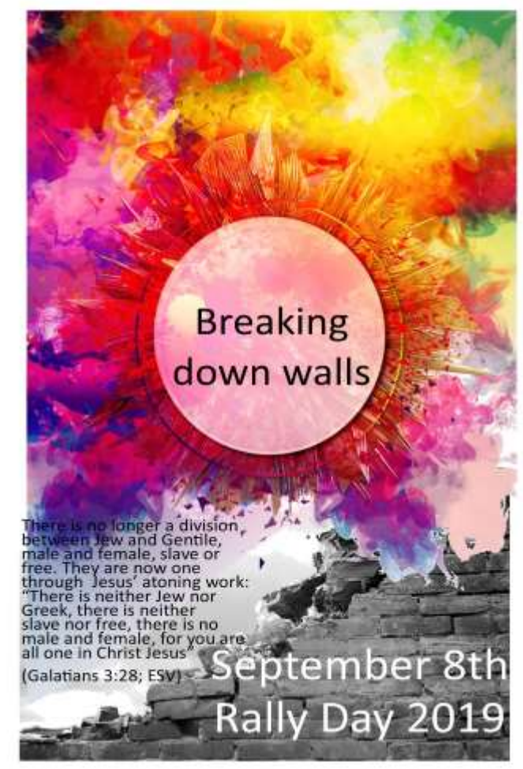

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Rusty and Jana Creighton
239 Penfolds Ct.
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

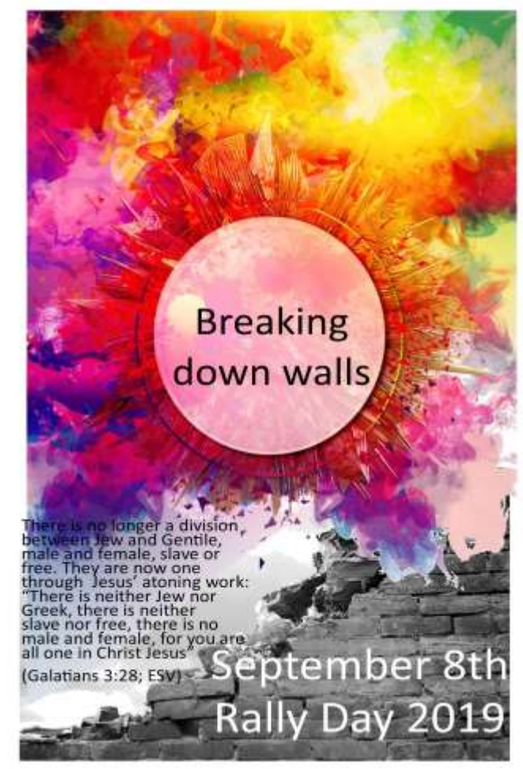
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

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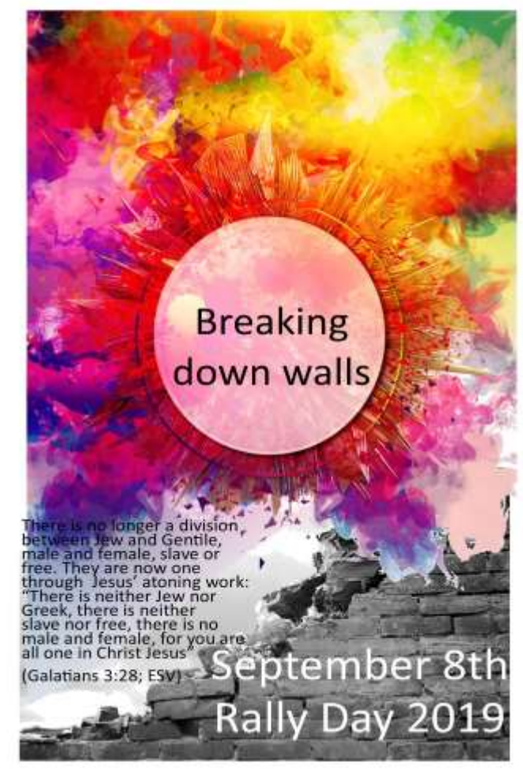

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   a. $100 Level
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4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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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!!!!

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Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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5821 Ellisor st
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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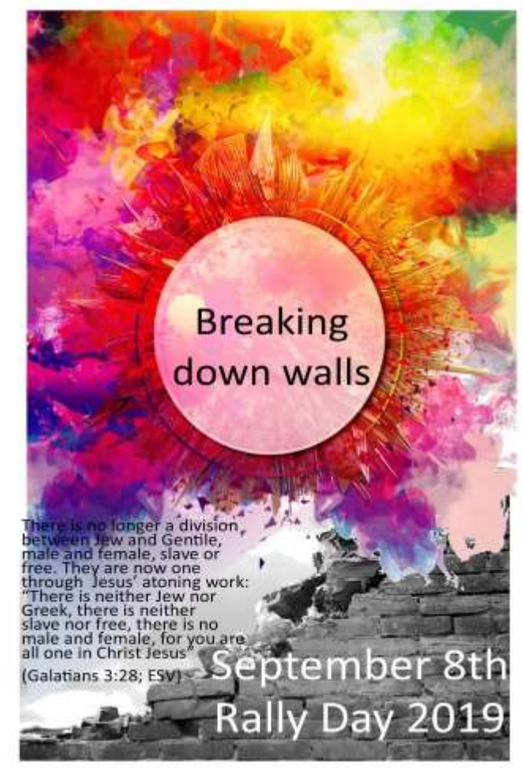

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Columbia SC 29212-2413

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SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

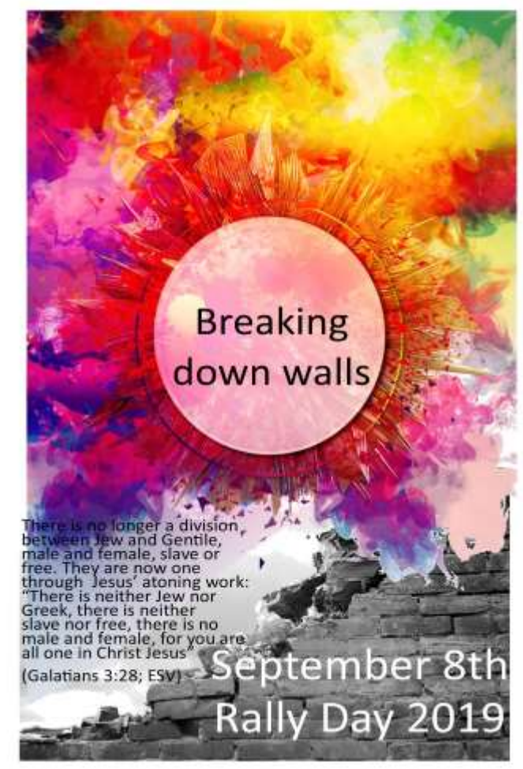
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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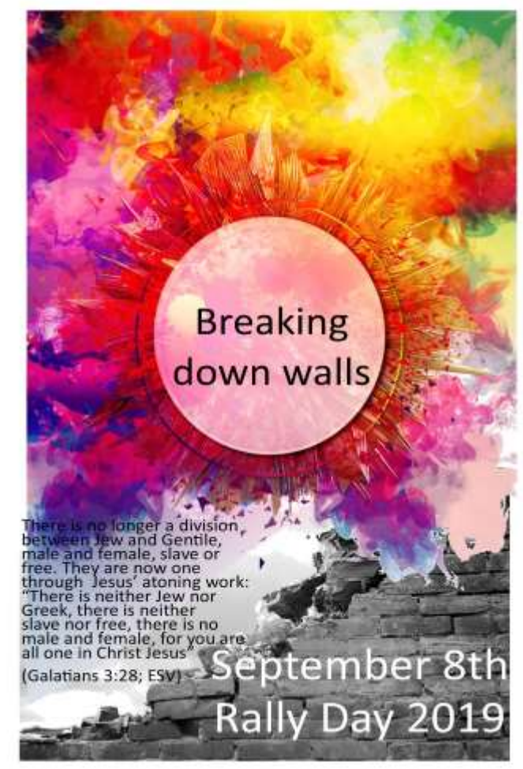

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

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Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Bruce & Peggy Fryer
110 S. Hermitage Road
Beaufort SC 29902-5231

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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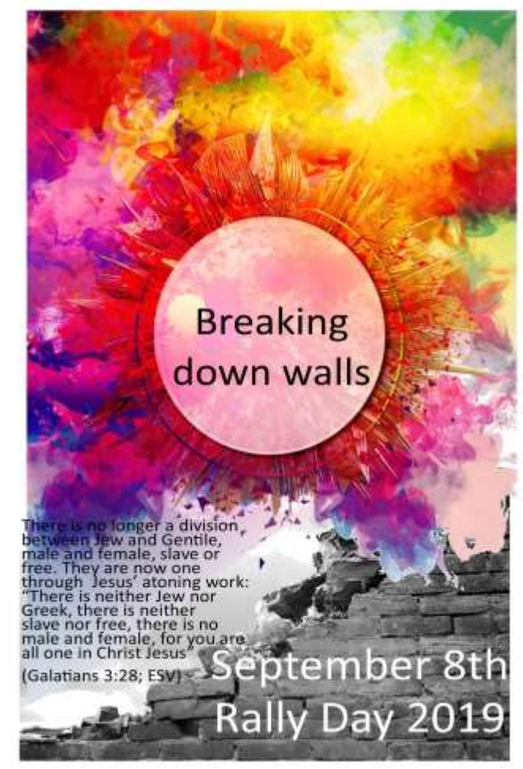

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Scott & Susan Gage
1514 Lewie Road
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SEPTEMBER

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SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
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The Leaf

September 2019

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This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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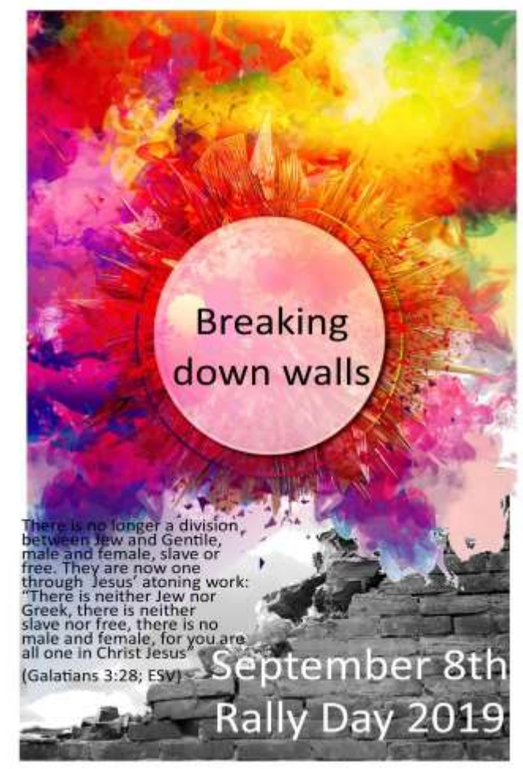

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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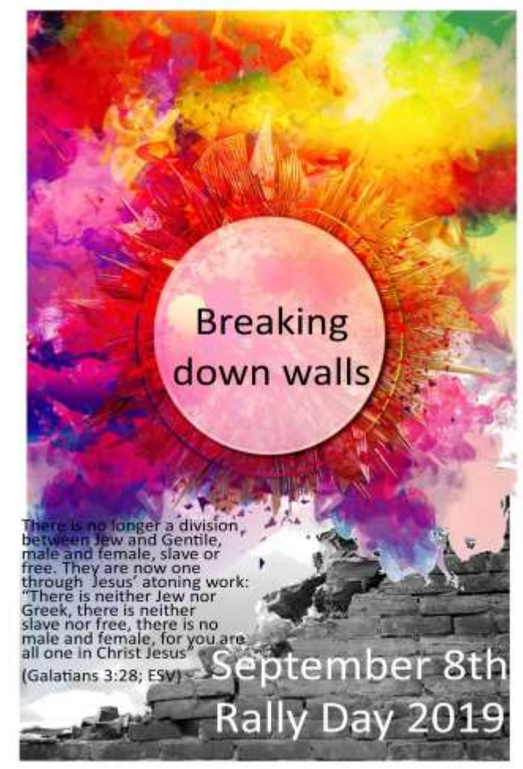

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   a. $100 Level
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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember this trip for a long time!!!!

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Brenda Turner

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Karen and Charlie Hart
709 Council Lane
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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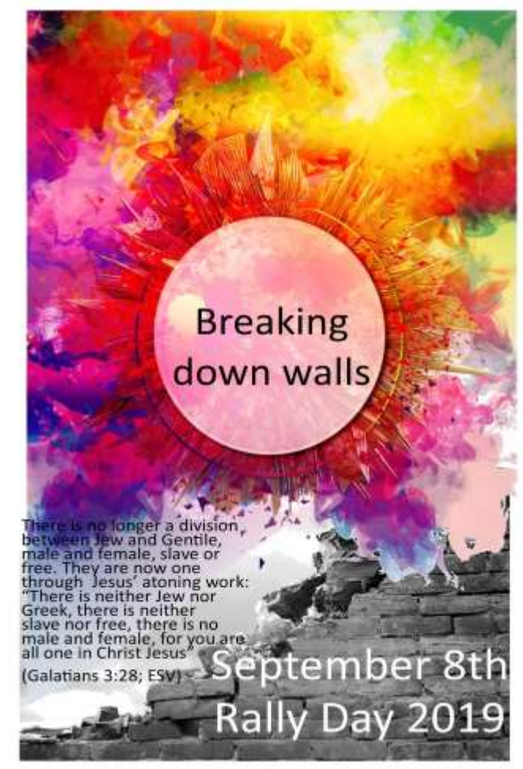

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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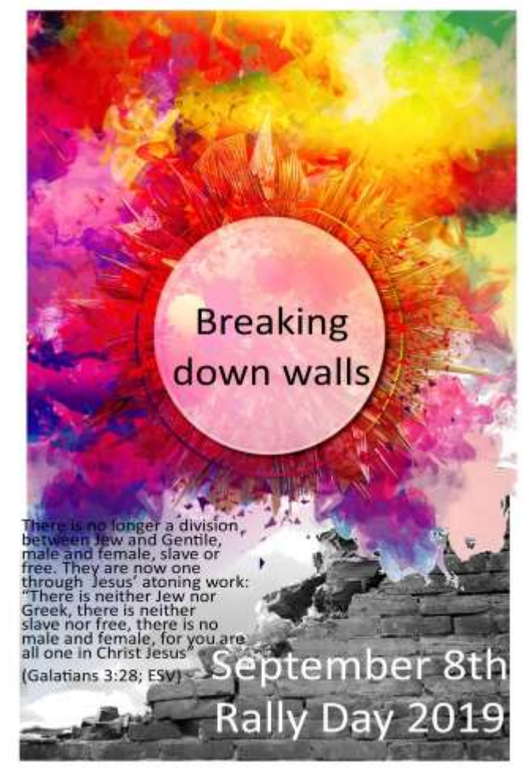

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29205-2211

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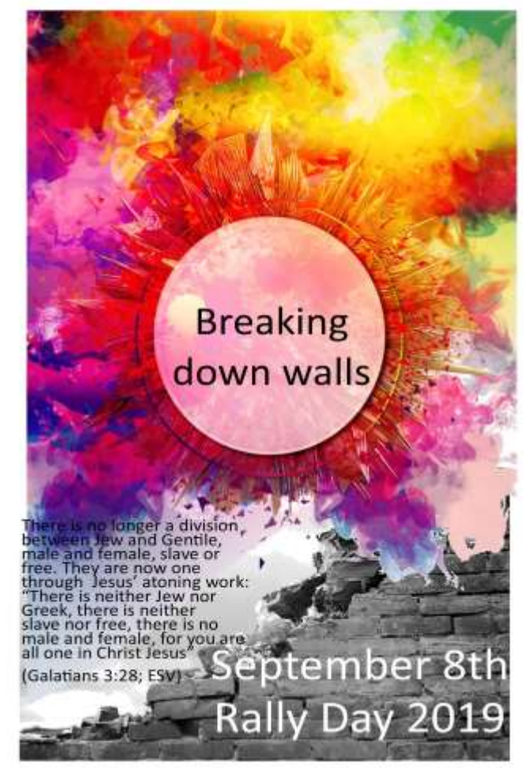

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Rev. Blaine Hill
3622 Augusta Highway
Gilbert SC 29054

SEPTEMBER

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

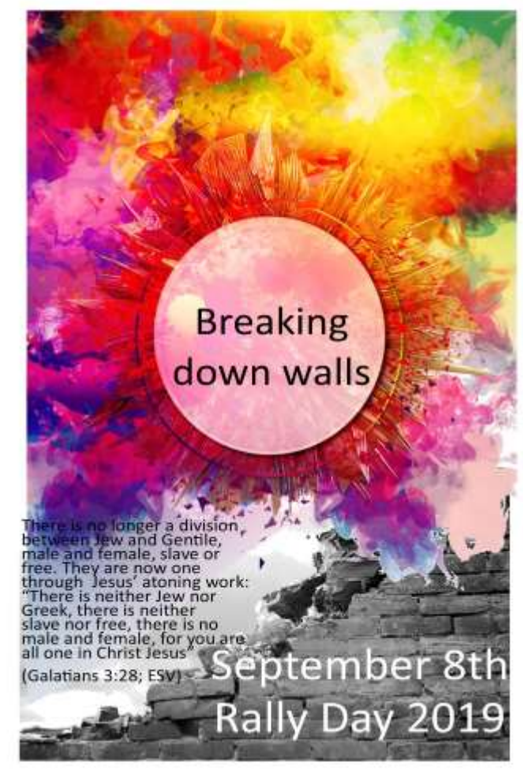
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Linda Floyd - Worship
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Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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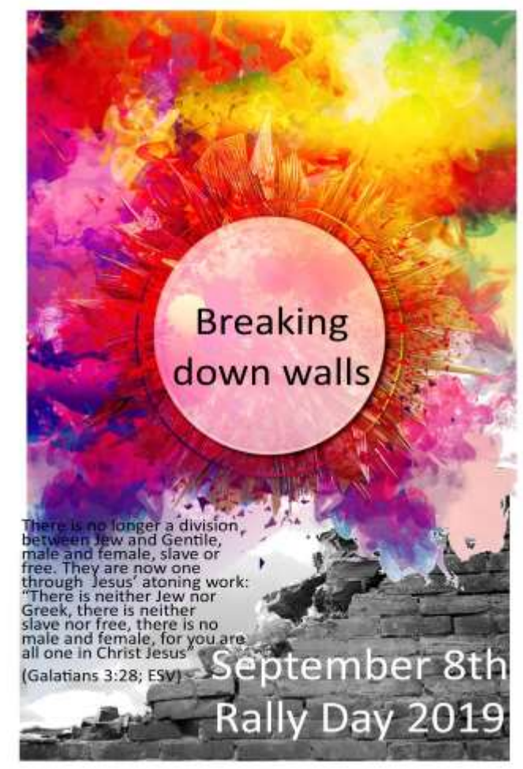

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Rebekah Howell
607 Baker Mill Lake Ln
Gaston SC 29053

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

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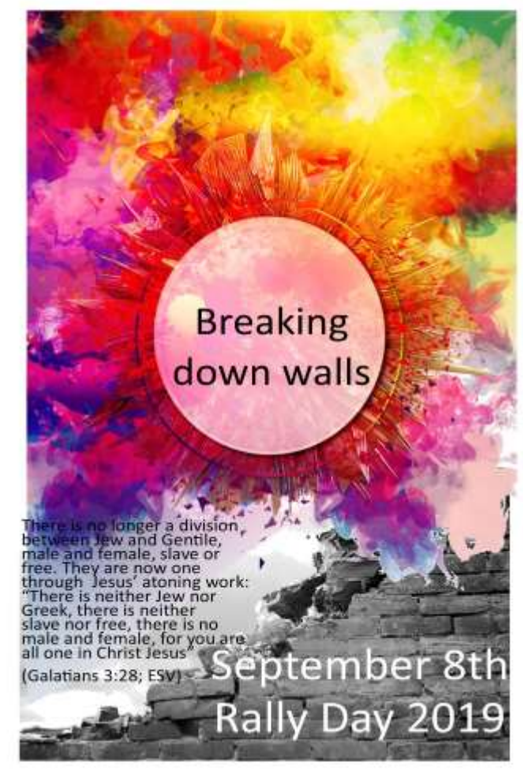

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Amy Jordan
240 Woodwinds Dr.
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

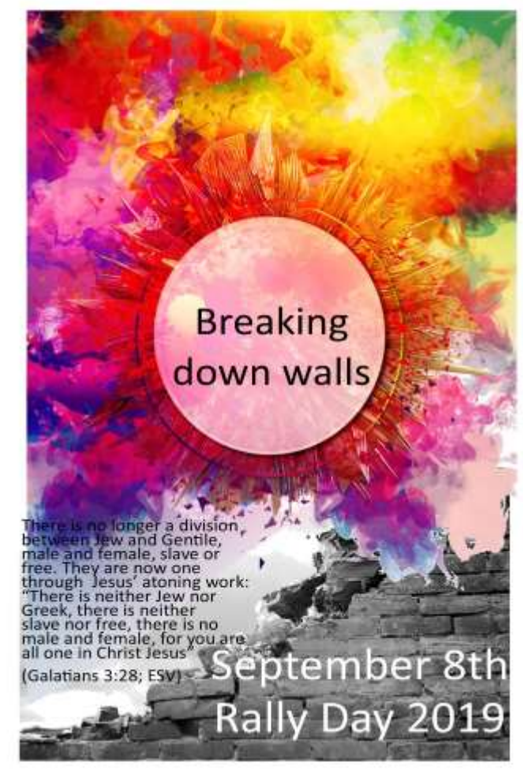
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

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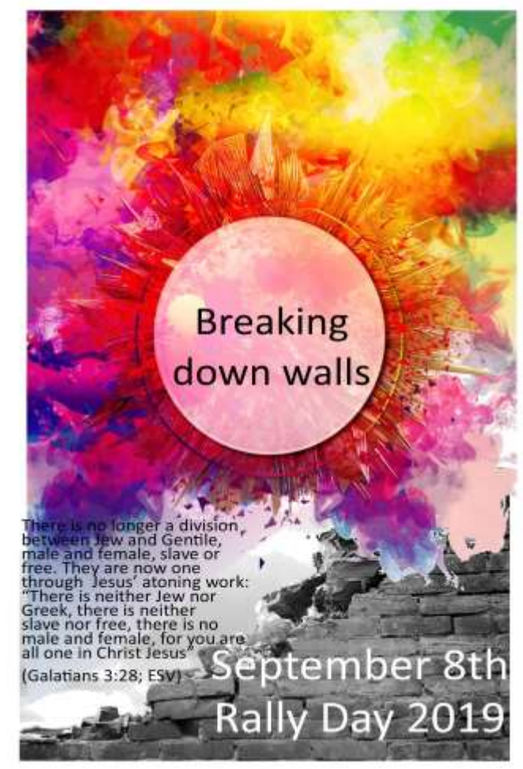

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Erin Kay
140 Tanners Mill Rd
Chapin SC 29036

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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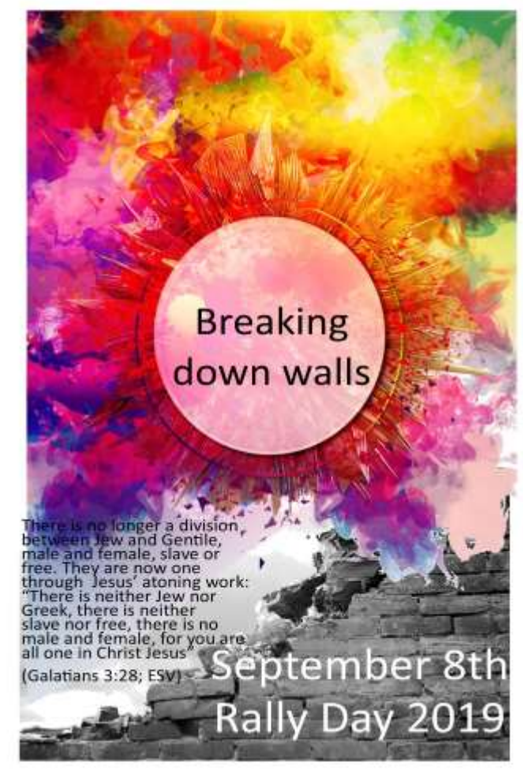

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

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The Leaf

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Melissa Keisler
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SEPTEMBER

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

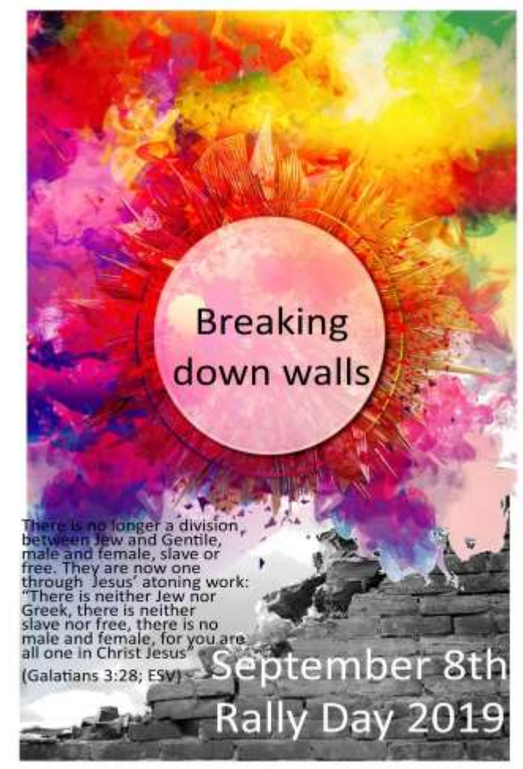
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

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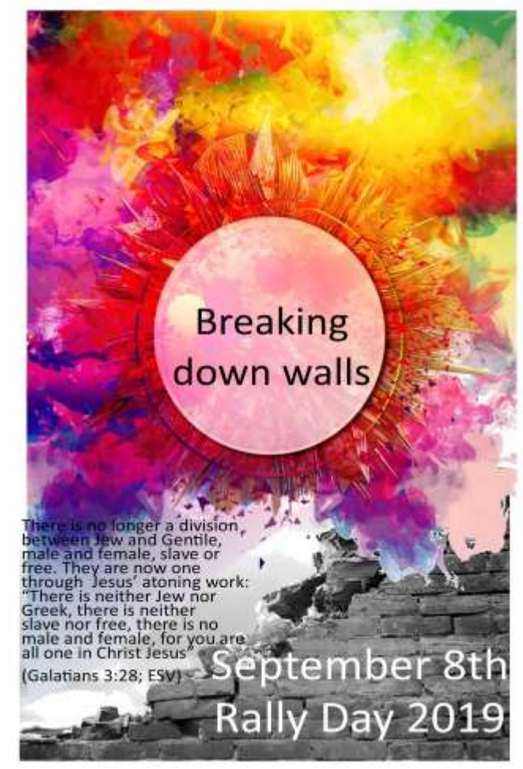

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SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29210

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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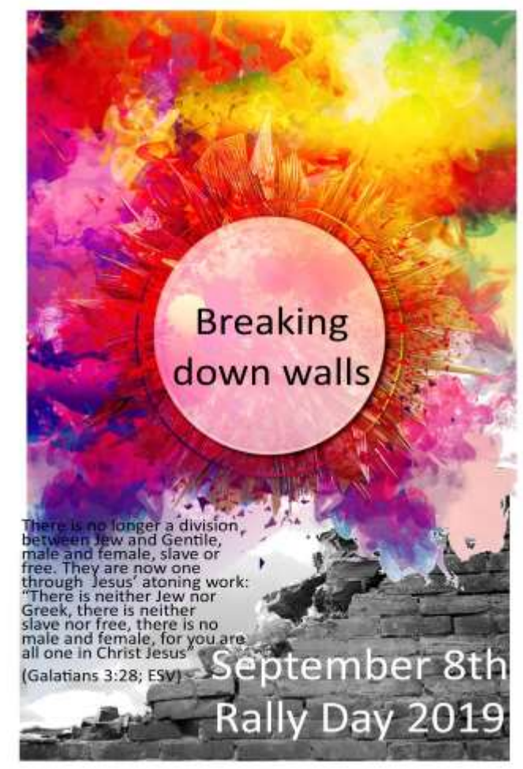

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Rod & Rachel McCarn
5904 Old Leesburg Road
Hopkins SC 29061-9255

SEPTEMBER

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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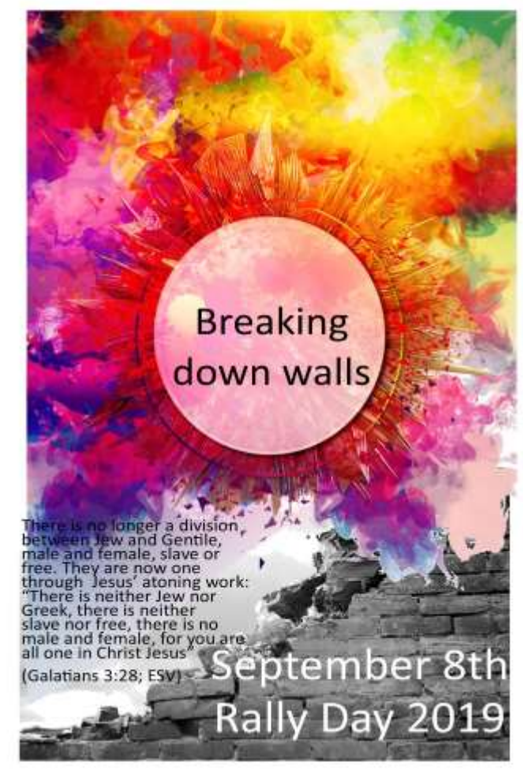

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Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

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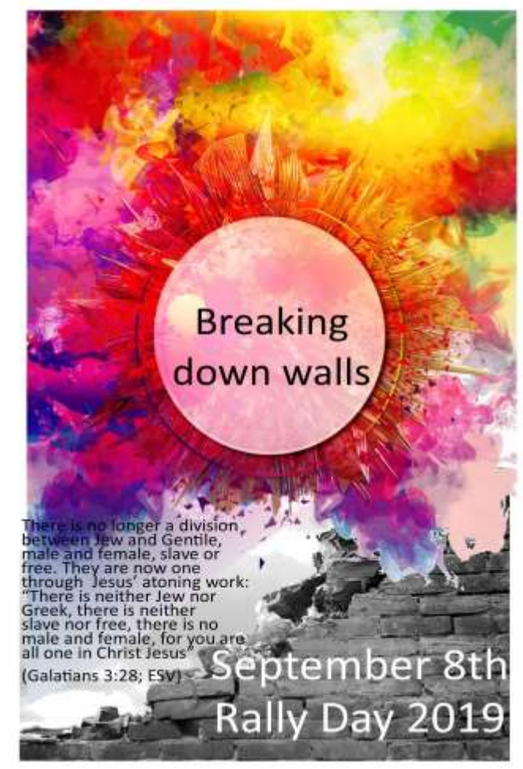

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"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

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BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

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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!!!!

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Nancy Meares
116 Heartwood Dr.
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

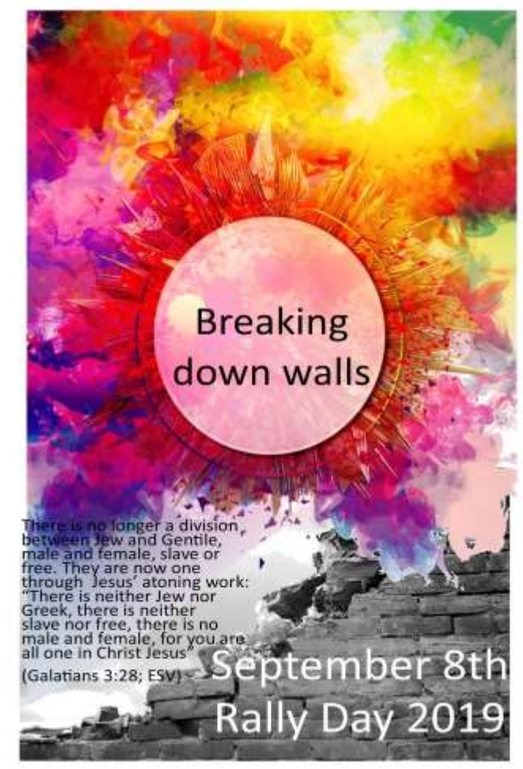
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
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Mrs. Sharon Watkins
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Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
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Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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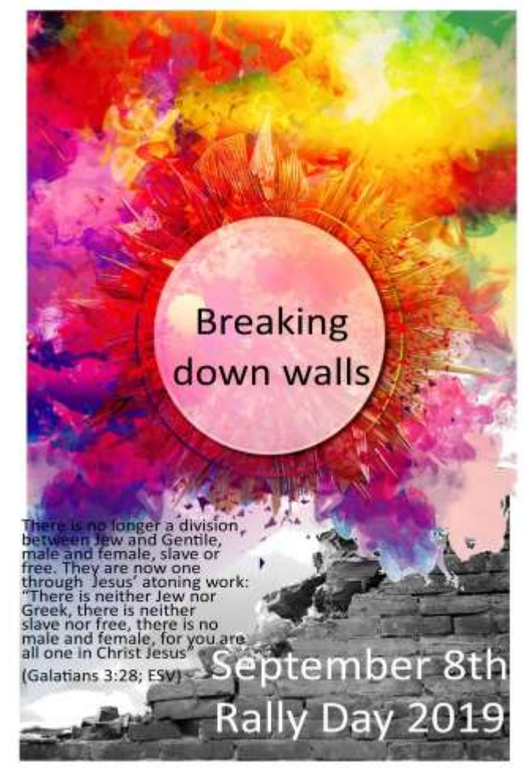

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Jason Moore
405 Harbison Blvd., Apt. 513
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

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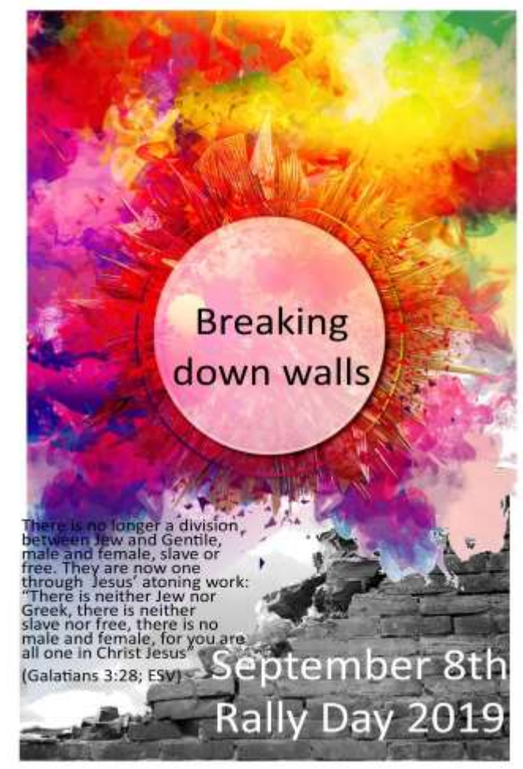

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Merle & Jane Norris
326 Mountain Aire Lane
West Jefferson NC 28694

SEPTEMBER

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

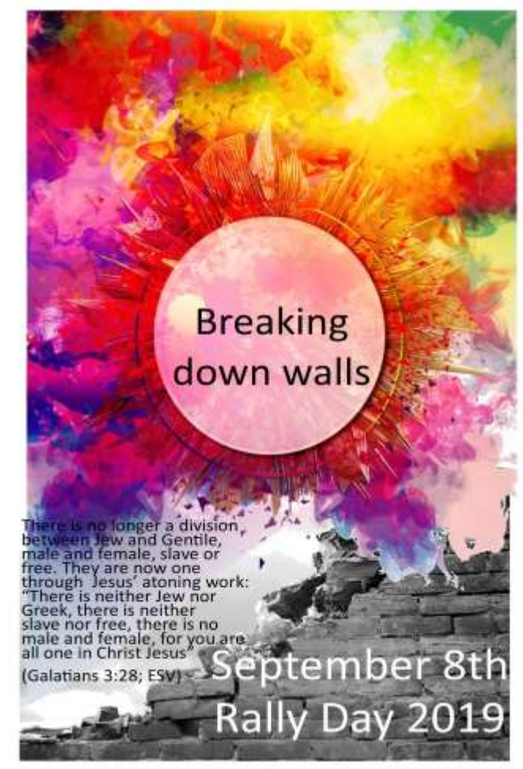
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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Pipes of Praise:
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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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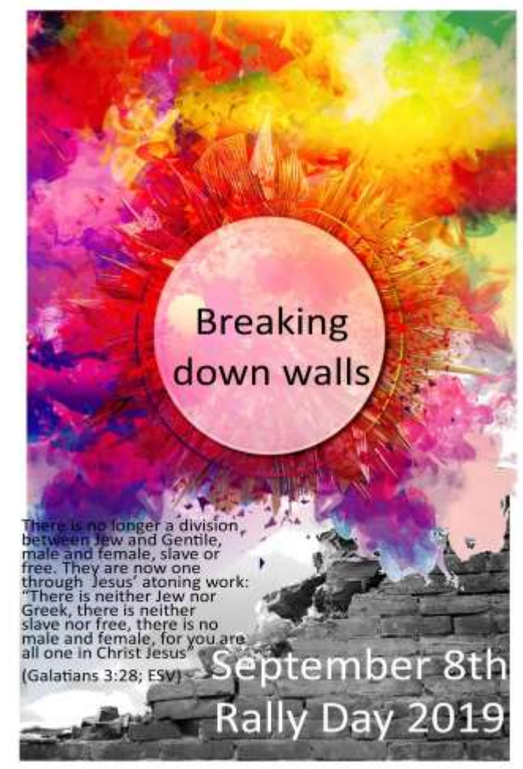

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

Return Service Requested

Laken Robinson
311 Heatherstone Road
Columbia SC 29212

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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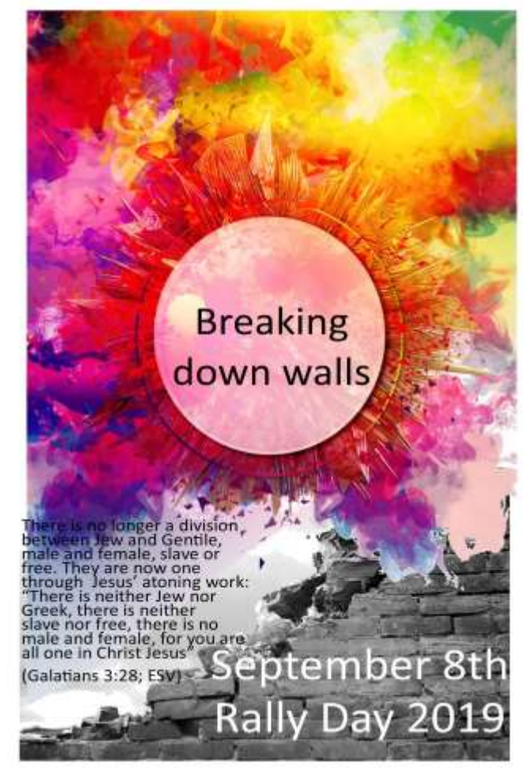

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
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Return Service Requested

Amanda Robinson
1727 Quail Valley East
Columbia SC 29212

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

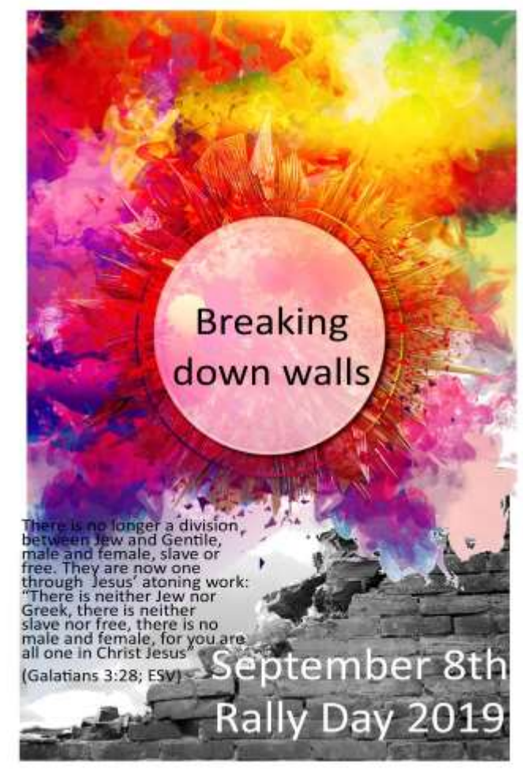
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
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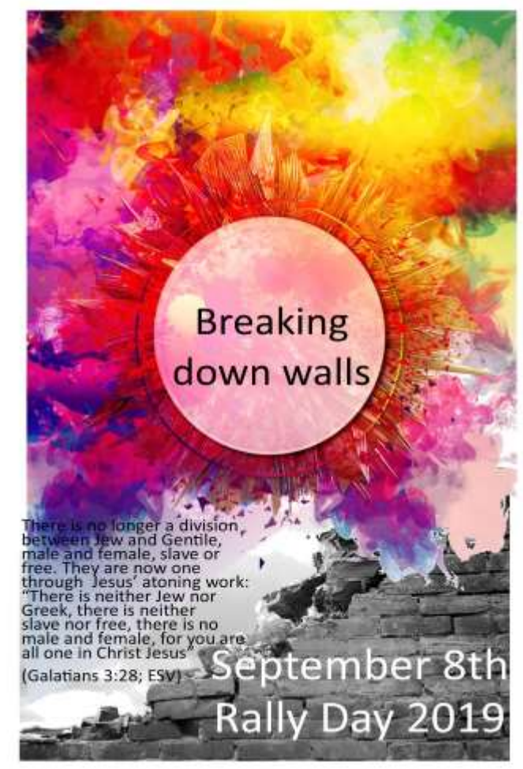

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
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Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Stephanie Simpkins
425 Stamford Bridge road
Columbia SC 29036

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

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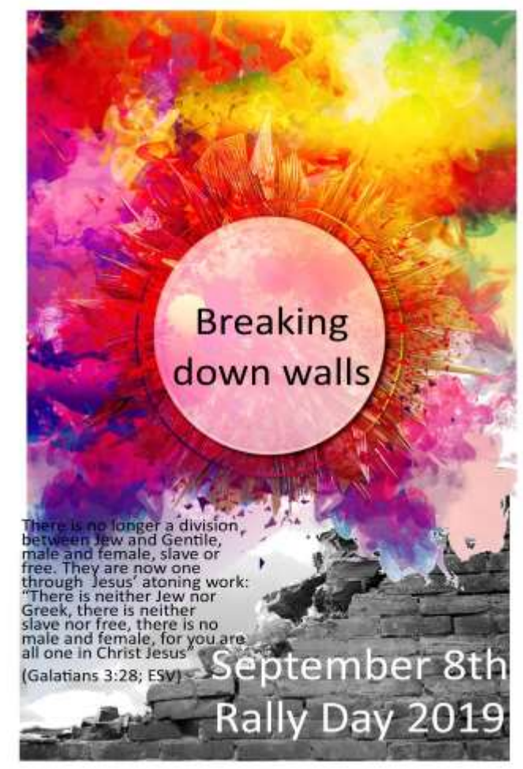

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We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Ben and Dallene Smith
442 Lakemont Dr.
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SEPTEMBER

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
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Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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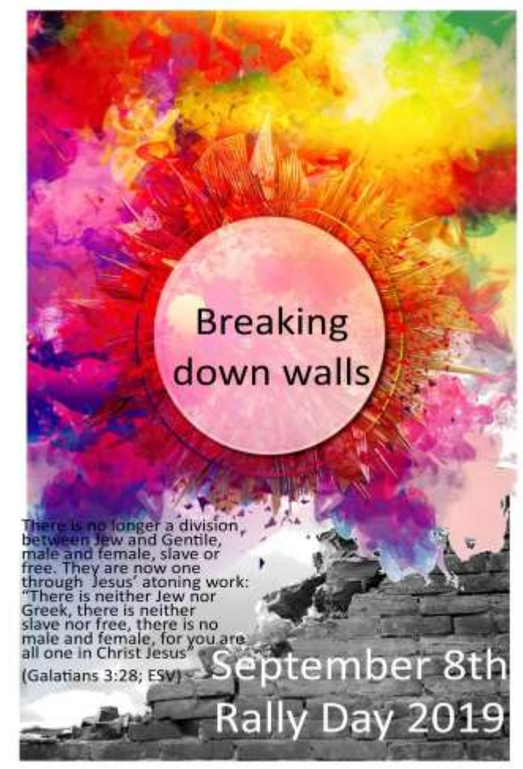

Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
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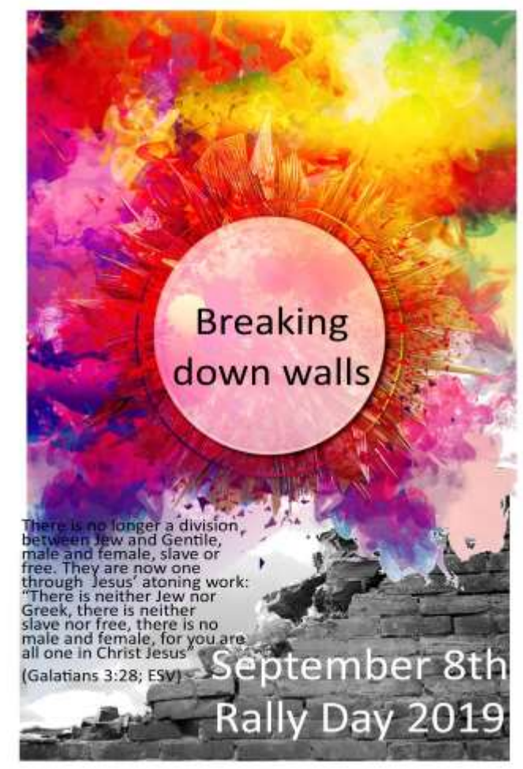

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Brenda Turner

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

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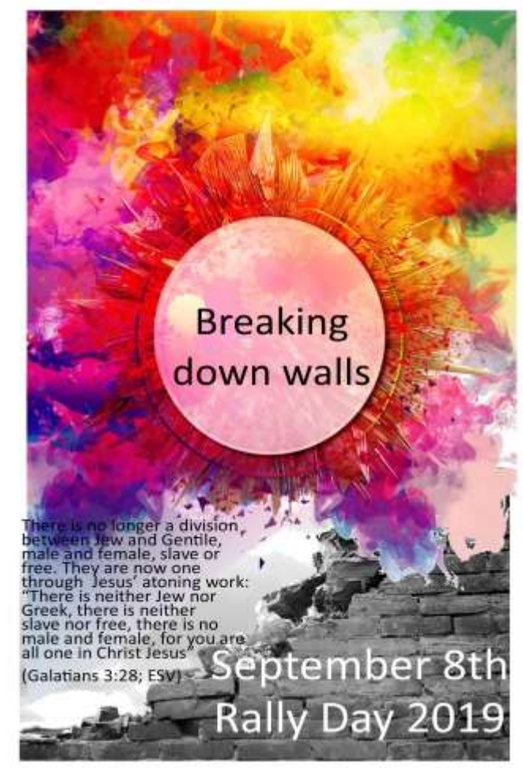

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
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Jack Noë - Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
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The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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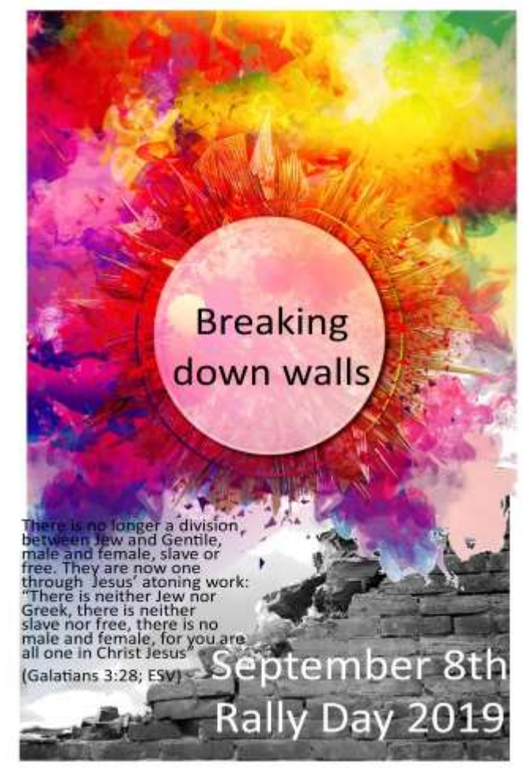

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During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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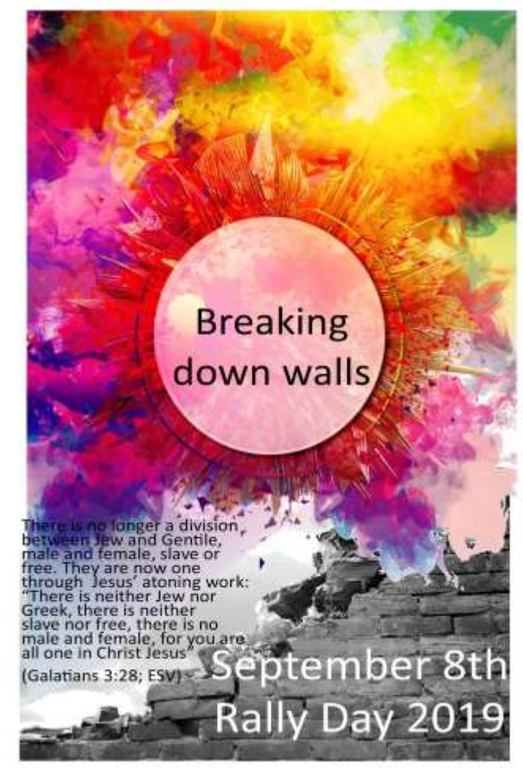

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia SC 29210

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

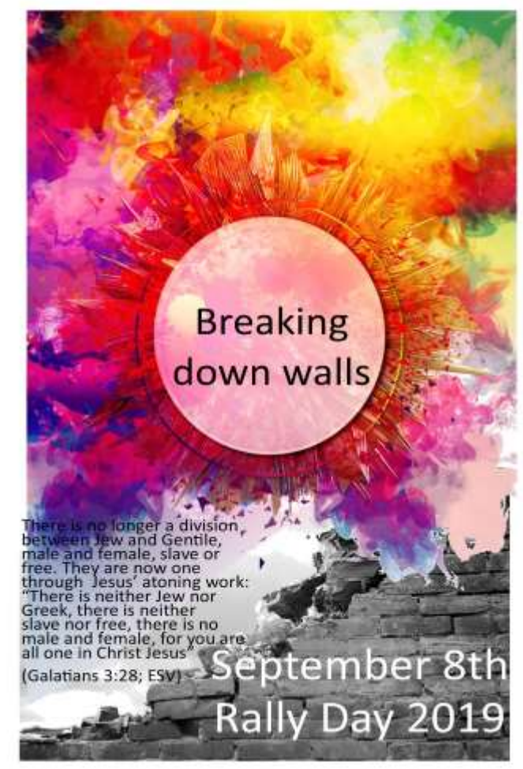
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

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Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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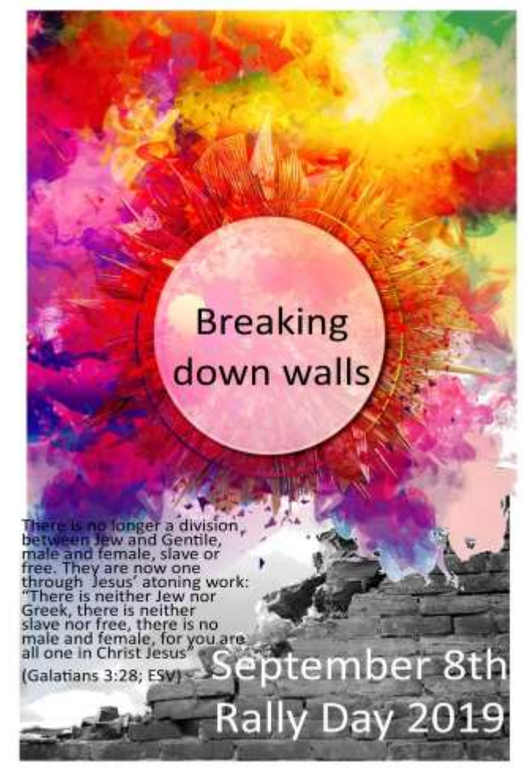

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Return Service Requested

Trinity Presbytery
554 DaVega Drive
Lexington SC 29073

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
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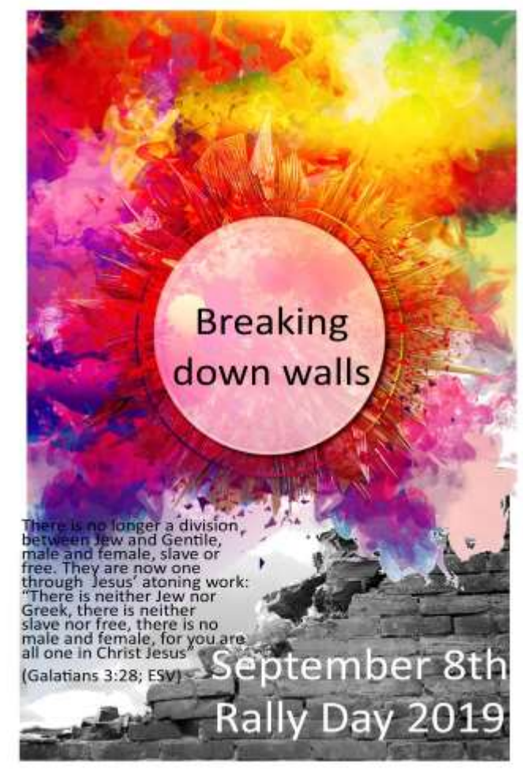

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Columbia, SC

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Lucy Turner
322 Nottingham Road
Columbia SC 29063-4025

SEPTEMBER

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SEVEN OAKS
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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

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Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

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This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

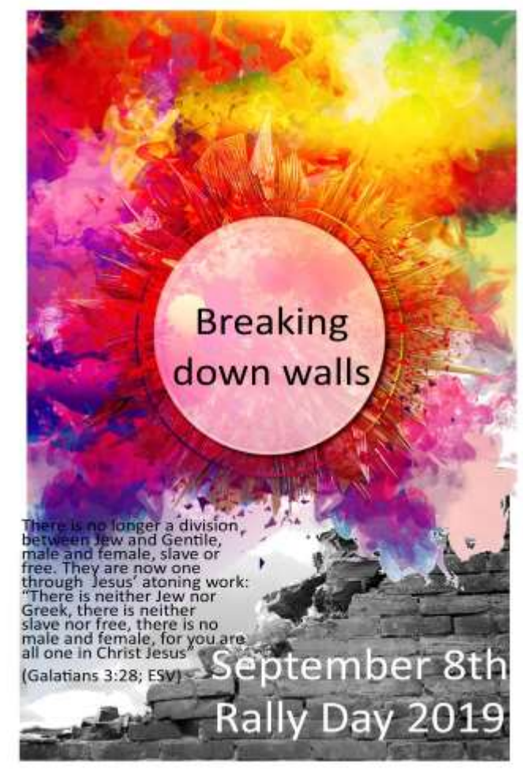
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

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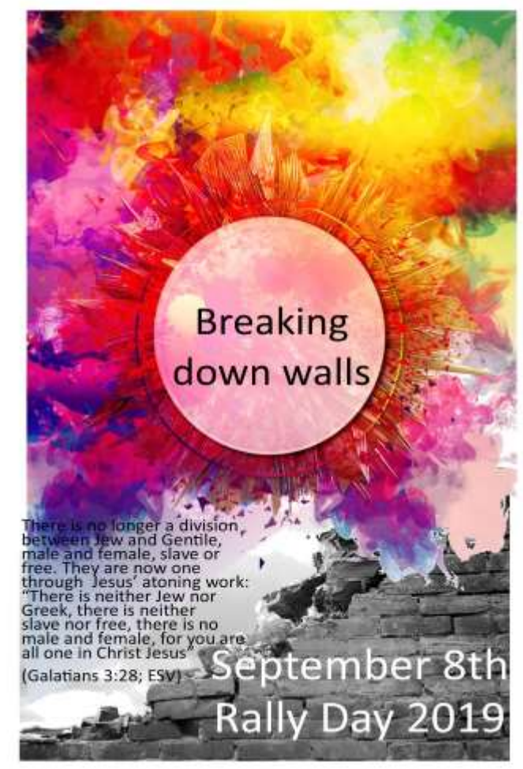

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
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7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
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13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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317 W. Lane Street
Church Hill TN 37642

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
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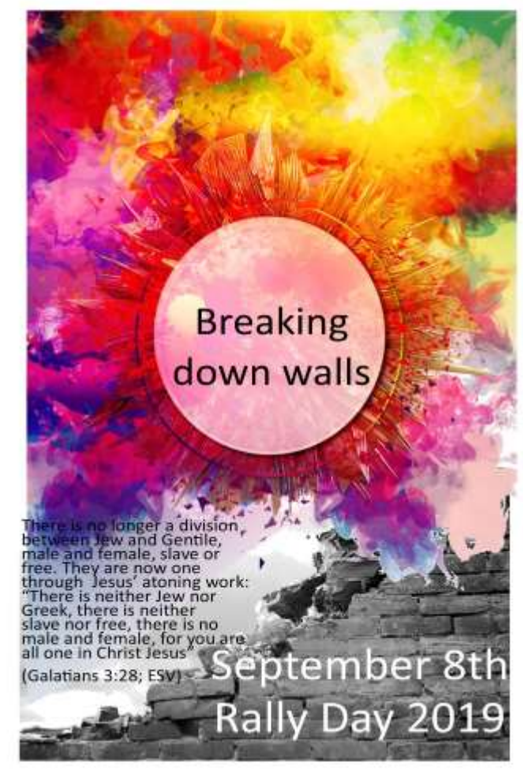

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Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

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Sarah Drayton

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Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

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The Leaf

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Shannon Whalen
315 Harrow Drive
Columbia SC 29210

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SEVEN OAKS
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Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
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Lucretia Seigler
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Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

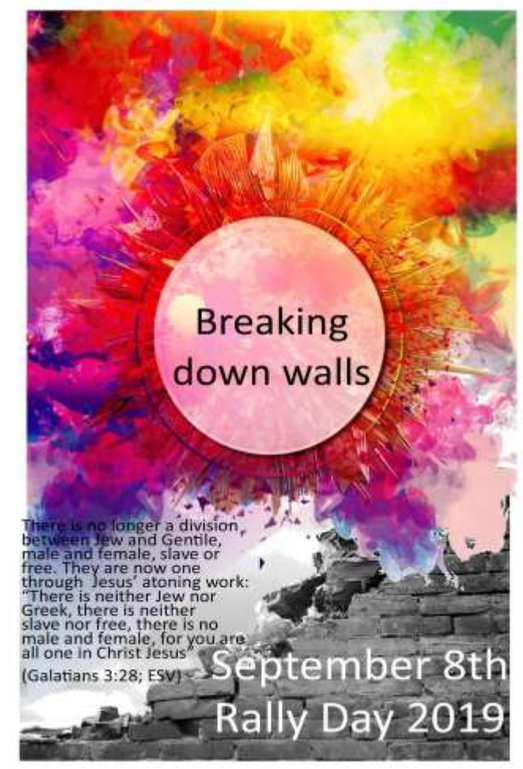
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

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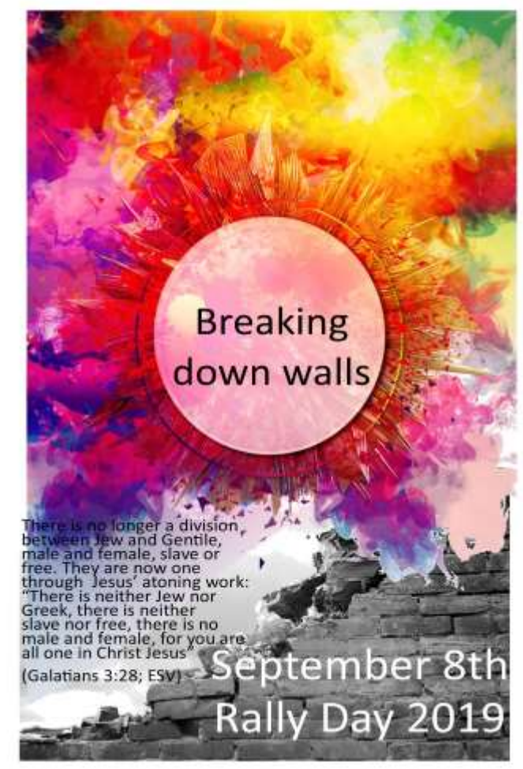

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SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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332 Stonehedge Drive
Columbia SC 29210

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Chin Church Worship	2 7:00 NANA	3 5:30 Mission Ministry 7:00 NANA & YOGA	4 12:15 Chair YOGA 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 NANA	5 9:00 SOPC Quilters	6 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	7
8 RALLY DAY 9:00 Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Scouts 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Worship	9 10:30 Bible Study 4:30 PW CT—Session Rm 5:30 Good News, B&G, Worship, Admin 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 NANA 7:15 Fellowship	10 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00 Presb. Commun. 2:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 NANA & YOGA	11 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 6:00 Chin Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir	12 10:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Hannah Circle	13 6:45 Lanterns	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
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Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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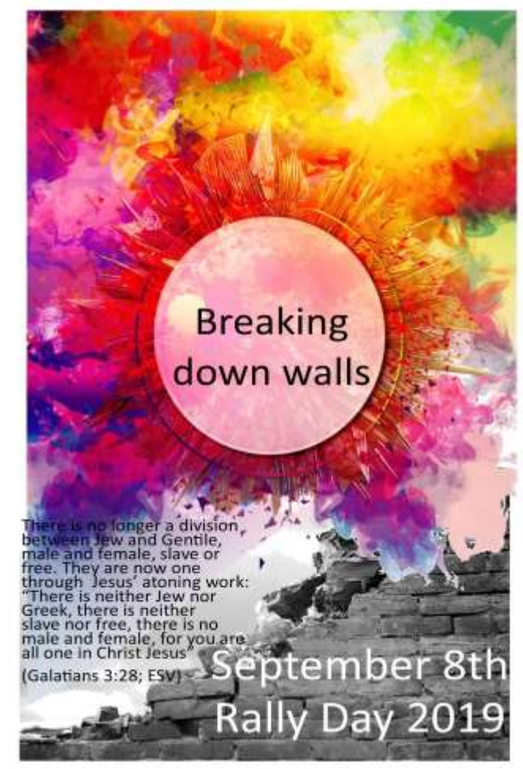

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Nikki
101 Saluda Pointe Dr. #1138
Lexington SC 29072

SEPTEMBER

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jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
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Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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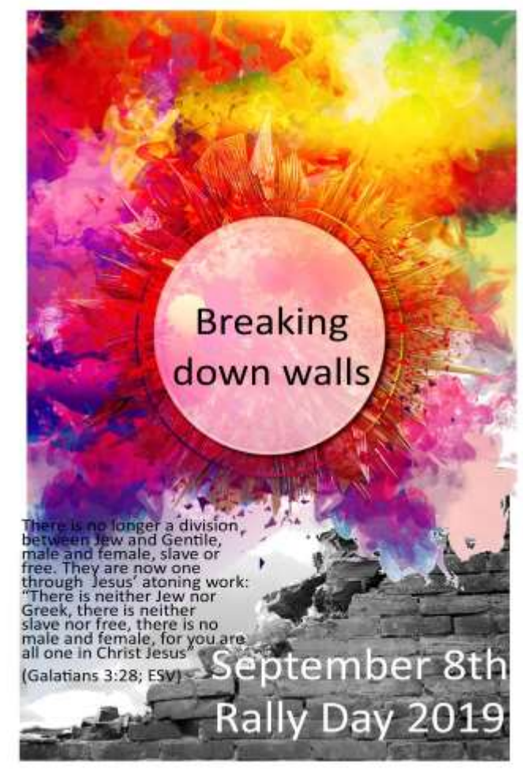

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Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

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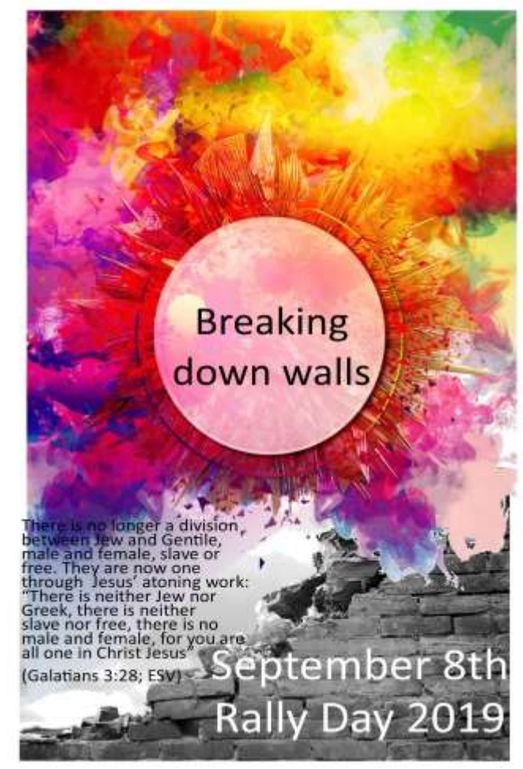

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Ken & Mary Gasque
748 Shadow Brook Dr.
Columbia SC 29210

SEPTEMBER

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15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	16 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	17 8:30 Greater Columbia Board 9:00 Greater Columbia Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	18 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	19	20 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Church Lunch 12:15 Covenant Ringers 5:15 BOOTCAMP 6:00 Chin Church Worship	23 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA	24 9:00 Comfort Quilters 7:00 NANA & YOGA	25 12:15 Chair YOGA 2:00 Over 60, Coffee, Conversation 5:30 KOINONIA 7:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 6:45 Lanterns 7:00 Chin Band	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Children/Youth Worship Team Mtg 12:15 Covenant Ringers 6:00 Chin Church Worship	30 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 NANA					

Our members are linked every month with a member to pray for. Please pray for this person or family by name each day. Thanks for being part of this important ministry as we continue to lift each other in prayer.

Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. JANA CREIGHTON
Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2021 - Session
Richard Brinkley - Admin.
Linda Floyd - Worship
Fred Holbrook - Admin.
Melanie Mixon - Good News
John Whitfield - Missions
Shelagh Wirth - B & G

Class of 2022—Session
Byron Dickson- B&G
Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

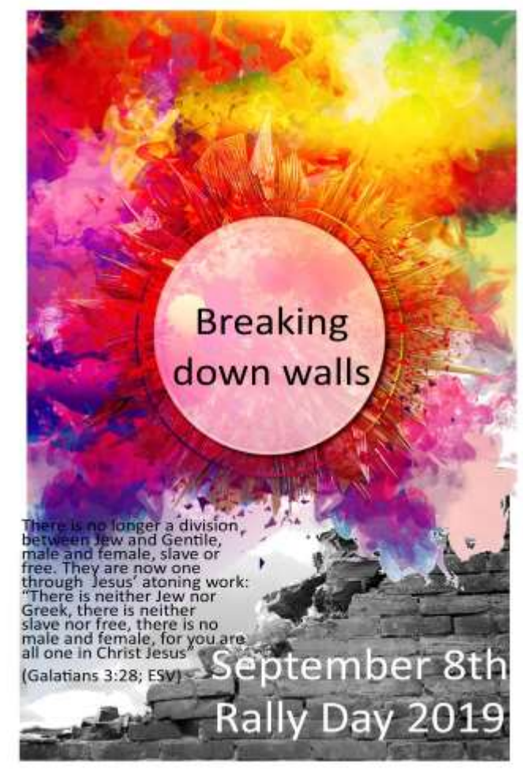
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

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Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
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Missionaries:
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turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

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The Leaf

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Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

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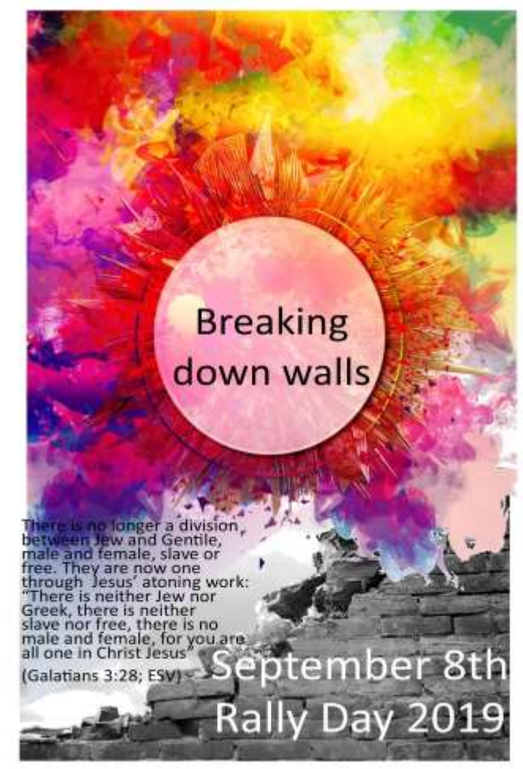

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MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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4 Clover Crest Court
Columbia SC 29229

SEPTEMBER

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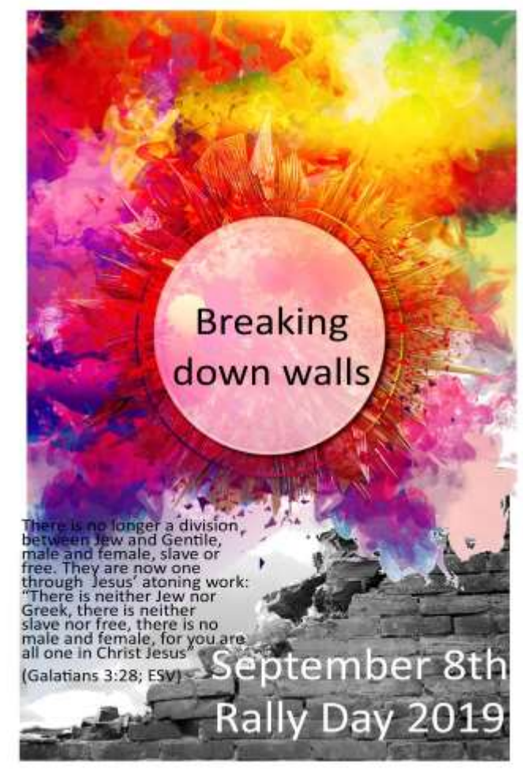

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Make it a vacation for the family and explore St. Louis before or after the gathering. Have questions, send an email or call Shelagh Wirth at swirth1949@gmail.com or 803 629 7851. I can guarantee you will have a good time, meet new friends, and remember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

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Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.

The Leaf

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Pastors, Staff and Missionaries

SEVEN OAKS
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Senior Pastor
jana@sopc.net

Rev. Alice A. Odell
Parish Associate
alice@sopc.net

Rev. Barry Shatzer, D. Min. HR
Volunteer Parish Associate
jbssc@yahoo.com

Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Karl Thompson
Building Superintendent

Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Piano Accompanist

Miss Michaela Craven
Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Sharon Staton
Finance Volunteer
sharon@sopc.net

Mrs. Amy Schwartz
Childcare Coordinator

Missionaries:
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Turk
turk@wanadoo.mg
www.pcusa/org/missionconnections/profiles/turkd.htm

Class of 2020 - Session
Jeanne LeBoeuf - C.E.
Tish Lowe - Missions
Kathryn Morganelli -Worship
Jack Noë - Good News
Monroe Swearingen– Good News
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John Whitfield - Missions
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Carol Griffith- Fellowship
Ed Keelen– C.E.
Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210 Ph. (803) 772-1761 Fax (803) 772-1787

JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

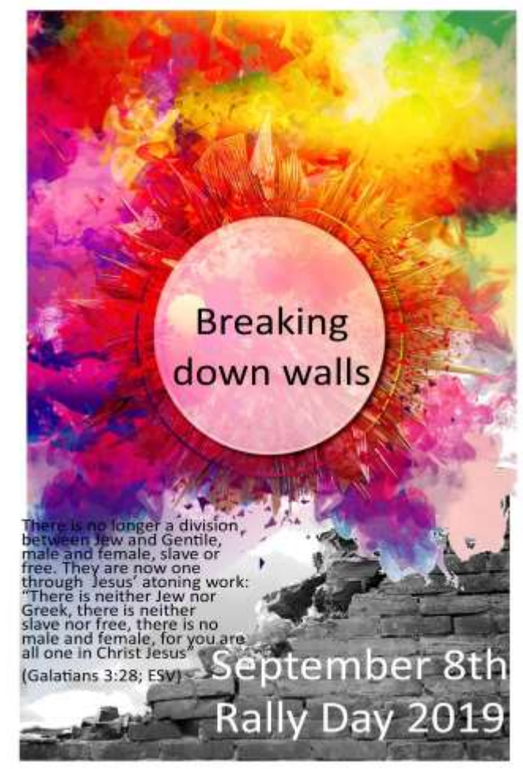
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

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Mark Pilkington - C.E.
Sharon Staton - Admin.
Jim Taylor - Missions

Trustees
Lucretia Seigler
Beverly Hudson
Frank Sheppard

Treasurer Hal Bowman

The Leaf

September 2019

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JOIN US Sunday, Sept 8, to discover new ways to grow in faith this coming year. Explore the curriculum, join a small group, see what is happening in the life of our church as we strive to build up one another, grow in our faith and reach out to the community around us. See you at breakfast @ 9:00 am!!!

Pipes of Praise:
This is a truly exciting time, as our organ renovation project enters the installation phase. Over the summer months, Tom Lewtak and his expert craftsmen completed work on each of the major systems of our organ. Those systems were then assembled and thoroughly tested. The console, pipes, windchests, and many other parts are now being installed. September will be a time of construction in the organ chamber, installing the pipework, and then doing the finish voicing and tuning on the instrument. Once the installation is complete, our organ will be ready to inspire us, lead our worship and enhance our Music Ministry for decades to come!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

What exactly is Paul saying and why is this our passage for the coming year? Paul is not saying that the differences among people do not exist but that, in Christ, they do not matter. For example, if a family is attending an amusement park, they may encounter different prices for different people: kids, teenagers, adults, teachers, students, senior citizens, military veterans, etc. However, on Tuesday everyone is admitted for the same low price. So, if the family approaches the ticket window on a Tuesday, and Grandma says to the ticket agent, "Don't forget, I am a senior citizen," the ticket agent might respond, "It doesn't matter." He is not attempting to be rude or say that all of the life experience that Grandma has accumulated is worthless. Nor is he saying that the aches and pains of age will not affect her today. What he is saying is that, within the context of the issue at hand—ticket prices—the fact that she is a senior citizen does not matter; that is, those facts, as important as they may be in other contexts, simply do not affect the ticket prices on Tuesday (excerpt taken from gotquestions.org). The distinctions do not matter. In church terms, the walls we put up to define ourselves also simply do not matter. We are all the heirs of Abraham, children of Christ, no matter if or which SS we attend, or who we call friends, we are all children of God.

Paul is teaching us to walk in faith and follow the two most important commandments, the summary of all: Love God and Love neighbor. When we break down walls, spiritual growth occurs *so that* we have the tools to do those two things. Here at SOPC, what walls are we breaking down this year?

Walls that separate Christians one from another and that prohibit relationship building. This can include prejudices, grudges, or gossip, as well as small groups. Did you know that small groups which have gelled over a long time are less likely to learn and grow in faith? Participating in a new small group helps to challenge *and grow relationships and faith* (Searcy, Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups). You are invited to join a new group, make a new friend, invite a friend and to practice relationships in a new setting.

Walls between ourselves and our neighbors. Did you know that our community has multiple faith traditions at our back doors? We are breaking down barriers by entering into relationships. Koinonia is joining with Interfaith Partners of SC for one on one conversations with our brothers and sisters of different faith walks. Breaking down walls of animosity and distrust leads to healthy communities working for the common good of humankind, loving God and loving neighbor, together.

Walls that hold Christ's church back from God's glory. This includes things like MORE Justice, homelessness and home insecurity, food scarcity, and learning disabilities. We are reaching out into the community to discern the needs in our own backyard. Breaking down walls is the process of recognizing that in Christ, we are called to care for our neighbors.

This fall you are invited to participate in breaking down walls where we can come to recognize that these artificial walls we create 'simply do not matter' to Christ, our neighbors and our world. They will know we are Christians by our love, friends. May it be so.

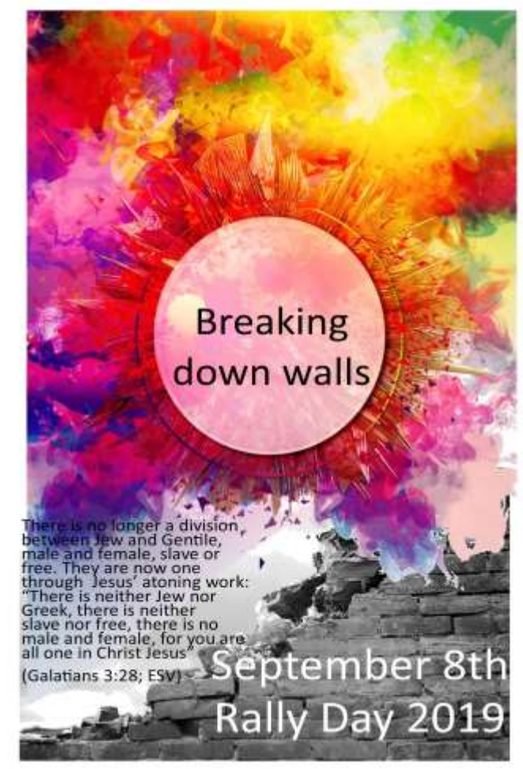
Pastor Jana

Happy Birthday

April White	3	Mary Hilyer	17
Anne Crook	5	Cassandra S. Marshall	18
Joe Gause	5	Gail Bookout	21
Byron Dickson	6	Ernie Bussells	22
Chris Laughter	7	Missy Watts	22
Sharon Watkins	7	OB Drayton	25
Jane Anderson	14	Alison Forbes	28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Boot Camp is starting back up, Sunday, Sept 8 & Sept 22 @ 5:15 pm. Adult small groups as well as children, middle school and high school groups will be meeting. Join us!!!!



Looking to Support the Youth Drive Firetruck Pull? Here's How!

1. Sponsors are needed
   a. $100 Level
   b. $500 Level
   c. $1000 Level
2. Build a team and sign up to pull!
3. Register as individuals to pull!
4. Register for Over 80 Cheering Team (1/2 price tickets)!
5. Sign your small group up to provide human power for the booths and tables!

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 at 9:00 am, with fellowship and an exciting morning of exploring the Seven Oaks Church Community.

Fellowship Ministry

Join us for lunch on the 3rd Monday of each month starting with Monday, September 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon. We will meet at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 148 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact Margaret Royals, 803 957-0430.

Koinonia Programs Fall 2019
"Breaking Down Walls and Building Relationships"

Better understanding of beliefs between faith traditions: Sept 18 - Buddhism, Sept 25 - Judaism, Oct 2 - Islam, all three classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer.

During Barry's 20 years as a church pastor, he was an adjunct instructor at two different universities for four years. One of the subjects he taught was world religions. He has also moderated panel discussions between Jews and Arabs as well as having one-on-one discussions with both sides.

September 22 - Please join us for lunch after church . We'll be serving Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert and Rolls. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office so that we can plan efficiently Hope to see everyone there!!!

BBQ dinner was well attended and a BIG thank you to all who prepared, cooked, and served at our August kickoff Fellowship sold 37 Boston Butts.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds, as always, has been busy these last few months. We have marked some trouble spots in the sidewalks with yellow paint; put in a wheelchair ramp at the sanctuary; taken down some limbs; fixed the sprinklers and worked on the well. We have received the new lawn equipment and it is working great!!! As we move into the fall, we will be discussing a work day for cleaning the campus and sanctuary so our campus will shine for the Presbytery meeting November 12. Watch for more news as the date gets closer. Thank you to the B/G committee for all the work being done around the church. Special thanks to John Whitfield, Byron Dickson, Ron Kesterson and Daniel Perriero for all they have done the last couple of months to make our campus stay looking great!!!

Oliver Gospel Mission

Join us at Centennial Church on Saturday, Sept 21, as we make sandwiches for the Oliver Gospel Mission men. We meet at 10:00 am for about 45 min, New members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping or would like to have more information, please contact Greg Mixon, 781 6490.

MORE Justice

MORE Justice invites anyone who desires to be heard and build a relationship to please contact Lizzy Van Horn to schedule a meeting. Lizzy Van Horn's contact information is elizabeth@thedartcenter.org or cell: 616-916-9568.

SCOUTS

Scouts earning badges at the Scout Twilight Camp held at SOPC this past month. Great learning experience.

Administration Ministry

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
July	$ 32,131	$ 31,957	$174
YTD 2019	$233,975	$239,679	($5,704)

Total revenue for the first 7 months of the year (including other income in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through July	$244,982
Total Expenses through July	$260,894
Expenses in excess of Revenues	($ 15,912)

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!!!!

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic Triennial Gathering is Oct 25—27, 2019. Join us at Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island GA!!! You are guaranteed a great time, meet new friends, fellowship at meals amid all of the wonder and beauty of St Simons Island.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Tues, Sept 10 @ 11 am in the Session Room.

Presbyterian Women (PW) circles will start to meet again in September. If you are not in a circle or just want more information, come to the PW table on Rally Day!!!

Church Women United will start their celebrations for 2019/2020, in October with Human Rights Day on Friday, October 4. Watch for more information coming soon.

News from your Session

At its last stated meeting on August 19, 2019 your Session…

1. Was reminded that Seven Oaks will host the next Trinity Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2019.
2. Approved as a resubmitted first reading of the Administration Policy and Procedure Manual.
3. Learned that this year's Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be November 3.
4. Signed cards and prayed for members and friends who have experienced illness or joys in the last month.
5. Approved the use of the pavilion by the Gardendale HOA for a picnic on October 5.
6. Approved the list of Sunday School teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Approved "Mixing it up with Harry Potter" & "Videos that Teach" as curriculum for the Youth Boot Camp, 5th – 7th grades.
8. Approved the Beth More curriculum "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" for a women's small group.
9. Elders were reminded that Rally Day will be on September 8 and to begin preparing for small group kick off.
10. Approved a motion specifying that profits from the Fellowship Ministry's sale of meats (such as turkeys & Boston Butts) will continue to go directly into the Fellowship account to aid in keeping the cost down for church members for our expensive meals, and to help with extra expenses, which include covering meals for members needing free meals, and meals for folks experiencing difficult times and possible needs outside this church.
11. Elders were told that budgets for next year are due at the next Session meeting.
12. Approved the removal of 2 sections of partitions in the sanctuary at least two weeks after the completion of the organ renovations and sound system installation. The Session will reevaluate after the partition removal trial period.
13. Received an anonymous letter that was referred to the administration committee for evaluation.
14. Discussed safety report business: video provision for the main office, storage of Chin Church supplies, and CPR/AED training.
15. Gave thanks for Barry Shatzer's gifts of teaching in our Roads & Anchor Small Group over the summer and in the upcoming Koinonia program.
16. Studied vitalization results on evangelism and caring relationships, together exploring ways SOPC can focus on caring relationships in the year 2019-2020.

Jim Wilhide, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and donations to SOPC when my brother passed away unexpectedly. The love and care you give is truly a blessing.
Brenda Turner

Dear SOPC Family,
Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and concerns since my broken hip. I'm doing great and hope to be back among you very soon.
Sarah Drayton

Dear SOPC Church,
Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and donations when my grandmother & father passed away. Thank you also for allowing us to use the sanctuary when my father passed. It is a pleasure to work here at SOPC, you are a caring church. I truly enjoy all the members I have met.
Karl Thompson & family

Missions

We had a great time at the SOES back to school breakfast, serving about 70 teachers, staff and administrators, who were most appreciative. Thanks to Robert, Kitsie, Mark, John, Melanie and Jana for buying supplies, making coffee, setting up, serving, and being "the face of SOPC" to our neighbors. Jana welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Robert raffled off a surprise gift of one of his creations, an embroidered apron that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher."

We had heard earlier that a lot of churches provided back to school refreshments for teachers, but we learned today that we are the only church doing it. Good to know and a reminder that one can't always believe what one hears.

We also saw a long table full of the many school supplies that generous members of our congregation donated. What a happy way to start the day! Wish I had thought to take a photo-arghhhh! Next time…

Love in Christ, Tish Lowe

Seven Oaks Elementary School Supply Drive: Thank you for your generosity. Robert Miller delivered a whole trunk load of donations to the school.

Migrant Ministry: On Tuesday, July 23rd we served a meal to almost 150 people in Batesburg-Leesville. The meal consisted of fried chicken, green beans, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, and ice cream.

Sharing God's Love: This month the items for donations are macaroni and cheese boxes and Spaghettios. Please bring your donation to church this Sunday, September 1. We are changing our program to make the first Sunday of each month our collection day for this project.

SOPC will be taking a meal to Providence Home on Tuesday, Sept. 12. If you are interested in helping, would like more information or want to help before hand, please contact Robert Miller, 807 7380

SHEPHERDING NEWS

Have you heard or experienced the *buzz*? Shepherds of Seven Oaks are still in process of reaching out to the congregation to ensure pastoral care is personal. If you have something going on or upcoming that needs prayer, if you just desire to chat, or if you have a concern, contact your shepherd! Please call your shepherd directly or call the office to get more information about your shepherd (maybe you want to send them a birthday card for instance!). Shepherds will continue to be given training and oversight in the coming months of what being a shepherd means in the life of the church. If you have interest in being part of the shepherding prayer group, please let the office know. Prayers with and for the church are vital to the growth of faith here at SOPC. Let us pray!

Vern & Alene Rogers are proud great grandparents of Baby girl Harper Leigh Barnhardt.