

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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Deadline for the August Oak Leaves is - July 15 - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

July 2011

From Pastor Bill

Thoughts On Aging

Dear Friends:

First, let me say what a privilege it is that Oak Grove has so many chronologically gifted members. That is one of our greatest strengths! The faith, wisdom, time and service of our older members are immeasurable and we are all greatly blessed! I am looking forward to Heritage Sunday on September 18 when we will honor our older folks in worship.

I have had a number of conversations recently with folks about several aspects of aging and I thought it might be helpful to share some things I've learned over the years, especially during my time as a chaplain to seniors.

Move before you have to. As a chaplain in communities with a continuum of care—from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing—I saw that folks who moved into the facility when they were already quite frail didn't connect with others in the community. On the other hand, those who moved in when they were still in relatively good health made friends and connections and so when they began to get more frail those friends came and visited, and often assisted in various ways. There are numerous wonderful senior communities in the Oak Grove neighborhood.

When in doubt, give up driving. What a hard decision this is! The loss of independence is very painful. BUT the stakes are too high to hesitate! We have friends who, along with their siblings, talked about taking their mom's keys away, but they knew it was going to be so difficult for Mom. While they were dithering, Mom caused a crash that took the lives of a family of five. The kids will live with that guilt the rest of their lives. Another older person I know of was told by his doctor to avoid freeways and only drive around town. He killed himself in a crash a mile from his home.

When an older family member was no longer such a capable driver I said to her, "You could sell your car and put the cash in a drawer and take a cab the rest of your life and never empty that drawer." She didn't take that advice, but what worked was when her grandson said to her, "Grandma, I'm looking to buy a used car. Are you interested in selling yours?" It was a perfect solution. She helped her grandchild and made the decision herself.

I'm not saying that when you hit X number of years old you must stop driving. It's different for each person. I'm saying that you don't want to crown a lifetime of good works with a tragic car crash and always be remembered for that!

Plan your memorial service. The time of death is a very stressful time to be making decisions. What a gift it is when a family plans together well in advance—selecting hymns and scriptures, designating memorials, as well as

cont'd on page 3

OAK LEAVES

Editor Beth Angerhofer
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Oak Leaves is a monthly publication of:

OAK GROVE

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2011 Per Capita is \$30.46

Oak Grove's Golf Outing Schedule

(bring your golfing friends)

Clifton Hollow 18 holes with cart \$27

Wednesday, July 6 and Wednesday, August 10

Leave church at 8:30 AM to car pool.

Return between 3 – 4 PM

Registration due Sunday before event.

Pay at the golf course.



Lost Spur Golf & Pizza \$20 Payment to Lost Spur (9 holes & cart)

Friday, July 22 4:00pm first tee off

Meet at Lost Spur Golf Course,

2750 Sibley Memorial Highway (Hwy 13)

Eagan, MN

Registration due by July 17

Save the Dates for Oak Rovers

Oak Rovers' retreat at Clearwater Forest will be Sept. 26-28. We car pool and return by 4:00 on Wednesday. Pastor Beth will lead our retreat this year and there will be room for all who wish to go. We especially invite anyone who has never been on this retreat to join us for fun and fellowship.

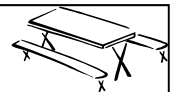


Twins Outing

If you have signed up for the Twins outing on August 28th please have your payment to Ron Dubis by July 17th. (PLEASE PAY BY CHECK MADE OUT TO OAK GROVE). You may leave it in an envelope in Ron's church mailbox, or you may give it to him on a Sunday. The cost is \$24 per ticket, with \$5.00 going to Oak Grove mission projects. If you have not reserved tickets, there is a waiting list; however last year, due to cancellations, all who were on the waiting list were able to attend. The game begins at 1:10 pm. Provide your own transportation.

Picnic Table Wanted

We'd still like to find a solid picnic table for the staff to be able to eat outdoors during the summer. If you have one you'd like to donate, let us know. Call 952-888-4621 and ask for Beth Angerhofer.



Donations needed for VBS (place donations in box outside Carol's office)

- Green sheets of tissue paper
- Wire coat hangers
- Paper toweling tubes
- Ice cream parlor table and/or chairs
- Vinyl kitchen stools
- Donations of aluminum foil
- Old, large kitchen utensils



Please label anything you want returned

Thoughts on Aging*cont'd from page 1*

making decisions regarding cremation, burial plots, etc. I am happy to visit with folks about these matters and I have forms available. There are a few folks who have filed such plans with me and what a gift that is to their families (and their pastors)!

Faithfully,

Bill

Looking Ahead (July—September)

- Jul 10** Afro-centric Worship Service (inspired by the establishment of the new country of Southern Sudan on July 9)
- Aug 14** Annual picnic at Moir Park
- Aug 27 (Saturday)** Blessing of Animals
- Sep 11** Rally Day, Observance of 10th anniversary of 9/11
- Sep 18** Heritage Sunday honoring long-time members and folks 85 years of age and over.



**WORSHIP FOR:
JULY 3—31**
—
**Sunday Mornings
Services at
9:30 AM**

**JULY 3**

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sermon by
Beth Hart-Andersen

JULY 10

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sermon by
Bill Chadwick

JULY 17

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sermon by
Bill Chadwick

JULY 24

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sermon by
Jake Van Pernis

JULY 31

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sermon by
Denise Dunbar-Perkins

From Pastor Beth**A Call for Techies and Social Connectors**

Some people use the long days of summer to accomplish tasks that have long languished on the “to-do” list. This is the case for my family this summer; we have stripped wallpaper and repainted the kitchen, an entryway, and a porch floor; bids are being compiled for some much needed roof repairs; and we are in the midst of several large yard projects.

My “to-do” list at church may not call for much manual labor on my part...but the labor that is called for I am less equipped to handle. I want to map the addresses of our members but lack the skills to make it a reality. This map would be for church use only and would help us respond more efficiently when needs arise in the congregation. Such a map might also be used to further fellowship opportunities among our members.

So...if you have computer skills, do I have a project for you! It would be grand if a handful of skilled folks would join me in making this map a reality. I promise to cheer such a group on, provide ideas and support, and even bring good food to eat...and I promise not to touch the keyboard during the process! This would be a great way to support further outreach to church members and the work of the Board of Deacons. Please contact me through the church office or email if you would like to help.

Beth Hart-Andersen, Interim Associate Pastor

952-888-4621, bhart-andersen@oakgrv.org



WANTED – NATIONS OF BIRTH

In order to celebrate the growing diversity of our congregation, we would like to hang flags of Oak Grovers' nations of birth.

So far we are aware of the following: India, Guyana, Philippines, Cameroon, Southern Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, USA, Korea, Laos and Belize. If you do not see your country of birth listed, please send an email to bangerhofer@oakgrv.org or call the church office with your information. This is one way that we can celebrate the cultures of our congregation.

Evangelism committee



Shuttle Service: Thanks to all of you who parked in the auxiliary parking lots during this past Winter season. This helps assure that late-arriving visitors on Sunday mornings will always find an obvious place to park in the main parking lots and not just drive away in frustration.

Shuttle service will stop until late Fall as the weather allows. However, rides will be provided if it rains or if the main lots begin to be crowded. Again, thank you.



New Member Classes coming soon (plan to attend all 3 sessions):

- October 2 12:00-2:00p Lunch and childcare will be provided.
- October 9 9:15-10:15a
- October 16 10:00a received by session with joining during the 10:45 service.

Worship Service Celebrating Africa

On July 10th our worship service will celebrate AFRICA in honor of Independence Day of Southern Sudan, July 9. (Simon Omot, Sunday Akway and Okuon Cham are from Southern Sudan.) Our African members are planning and leading this service and we greatly look forward to this!

Social Justice

Volunteers Needed (no need to leave your house!)

The Session approved a request from the Social Justice committee to create a **voluntary** email/telephone list for the purpose of encouraging timely action on pertinent social justice issues. Please help us contact legislators and the governor when needed. Sign-up lists are on a table in the narthex.



Arizona Trip

The Social Justice Committee is organizing a trip to the Arizona / Mexico border. The date would be a 4-5 day weekend in March or April, 2012.

It could include a trip across the border to the Comodor which serves undocumented migrants who have been returned to Nogales, Sonora. We would hear from Green Valley Samaritans who work to save lives in the Arizona desert.

We would like to hear from those people who might be interested in finding out more about the trip so we can do more detailed planning.

Please contact :

Doodee Backstrom 952-831-1922, Sandy Crum 952-888-2114 or Kris Jacobson 952-988-9695.

Discipleship Year Volunteer program in Washington, D.C.

Live in community, serve in a social justice ministry and take classes at the Servant Leadership School. Stipend and health insurance provided. Sponsored by Church of the Saviour and Festival Center (www.festivalcenter.org). Contact: dlongenecker@slschool.org.

"This looks SOOOO cool! If I were in my twenties I'd do this in a second!" --Pastor Bill

Schools for Peace Update

Since the April airing of the 60 Minutes report on Greg Mortenson and the Central Asia Institute, the Schools for Peace Task Force has been closely following developments related to the allegations made in the investigative report. We are fully aware that "investigative journalism" does not necessary tell a complete story and felt we needed to take some time to sort through the information and determine an appropriate response.



We have read the Q & A from CAI and while it does address a lot of issues, it does not completely put us at ease. Our Schools for Peace Task Force has met several times to try to make a final determination about whether we will continue our efforts through CAI or select a different partner organization. We want to believe in Greg Mortenson and understand that as humans we are prone to sometimes making bad decisions. At the same time, we take seriously our responsibility to wisely invest the money that we will raise for building a school. If that means that we need to change the partner organization, we will.

We are currently looking into other organizations that will help us reach our goal of supporting education for children - especially girls - in the Pakistan/Afghanistan area. As with CAI, we want to ascertain that a new partner organization is adhering to "best practices" financially and ethically. A strong option at this point is the Presbyterian Education Board which is affiliated with PC(USA) and is involved with schools in Pakistan, but we are awaiting more detailed information about their specific activities and our options as donors.

We expect to have a final decision to report to Session at their July meeting and then we will move forward enthusiastically with our mission to build a school.

The Schools for Peace Task Force

Greg Johnson, Caitlin Lucic, Sarah Olson, Carol Osweiler, Dan Payne, Jane Proppson

Camp Knutson is once again in need of volunteers to escort campers at MSP airport. These campers, who suffer from a variety of severe skin diseases, arrive from all over the country to attend camp in Minnesota. Volunteer escorts offer them welcome as they arrive at the airport, and see them safely to their flights home at the end of camp sessions. Volunteer activity takes place entirely within the airport terminal and lasts for about three hours. Volunteers will be needed for three-hour shifts on:



Friday July 1 and Sunday, July 10.

Shifts will be approximately 9:00-Noon, 10:00-1:00, and Noon-3:00, depending on camper's itineraries. If you are able to help it will be greatly appreciated. The kids are looking forward to seeing you!

Contact info: Dan Mason @ [612-822-0327](tel:612-822-0327) or mason611@gmail.com

Items Urgently Needed for Refugee Families

Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services is an ecumenical ministry welcoming persecuted people from around the world into new lives of freedom, hope, and opportunity in Minnesota. As our summer arrivals start to pick up, we're running low on essential household items for newly arrived refugee families! Currently, we have zero cleaning kits (2 trash bins, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, sponges, laundry detergent, broom, and trash bags), towels, light bulbs, toilet paper, can openers, and pillows. We're also very low on cookware, comforters, mixing bowls, shampoo, and toothpaste. Please consider donating these much-needed items. Donations can be dropped off any time Monday-Friday between 8:30-5:00 at 122 Franklin Ave W, Suite 100 Minneapolis. Questions? Email me!

Holly Larsen, Housing Resource Developer Minnesota Council of Churches - Refugee Services
(612) 230-3249 holly.larsen@mnchurches.org



Paint-A-Thon

Each year, on the first weekend in August, Metro Paint-A-Thon rallies volunteer teams from corporations, congregations, and civic groups to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

Sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, the program helps homeowners remain living independently in their own homes and improves neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. Since 1984, Metro Paint-A-Thon volunteers have painted more than 6,000 homes. OGPC has been participating in the Paint-A-Thon for many years. If you would like to help out with the Oak Grove crew this year on Saturday, August 6, call Roger Hornnes at 952-884-2452.

Recent donations from Oak Grove Mission dollars include:

- \$5800 for the City of Bloomington Summer Playground Program. This program provides activities for children in Bloomington during the three weeks in the summer when the other summer programs are not in operation - July 4th week and the last two weeks in August.
- \$1000 for the City of Bloomington Global Celebration on June 25. A celebration of our city's diversity with food, crafts, music and entertainment.
- \$1000 for the Mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala to purchase land for area families. 3 acres of land is sufficient for a family to live on, grow a cash crop of coffee and grow corn and vegetables to supplement their diet.

Donations Needed

Oasis needs white twin sheets and pillowcases, white towels and white washcloths. Please call Sue Powers at 952-884-8739 if you would like to donate any of these items.



Brat Stand Help Needed

Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 8-10. Oak Grovers will again be staffing the Cub Foods brat stand at Valley West. Come join your fellow Oak Grovers for some fun and raise some money for mission projects (we usually raise more than \$700.00). There are still a few openings for volunteers. Contact Ron Dubis at 887-6852. If you aren't able to work, stop by between 10:30 and 6:00, say hello and have a cheap meal.

Senior Driver Improvement Program Offered (4-Hour Refresher)

Date: Thursday, July 14 **Time:** 1 – 5 pm **Location:** Oak Grove Presbyterian



The Driver Improvement course is open to the public; pre-registration is requested. A MN Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor teaches this class. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information about driver safety, new laws, and vehicle technology. This class has something for everyone! The fee for the four hour refresher course is \$20.00. For more information or to register, call TOLL FREE 1-888-234-1294.

Persons age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for a ten percent discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years, according to Minnesota law. First time participants must complete the initial eight hours of training and a four hour refresher class every three years to maintain the 10% discount.

Budget & Finance



Through May 31st	2011		Act vs Budg	2010
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$280,526	\$264,054	\$16,473	\$253,239
Expense YTD	\$273,964	\$279,670	\$5,706	\$246,625
Income – Expenses	\$6,562	(\$15,617)	\$22,179	\$6,614

Things are looking good (even with the stock market jumping up and down)! It's always nice to see Oak Grovers respond to those in need (\$530 for Tornado Relief), while remembering those we've lost (\$2,250 in Memorials*), continuing to remember those at home (\$48K to the General Fund - including >\$200 for Per Capita), and then finding that little (or not so little) extra to beautify our sanctuary (\$21,150 for Stained Glass). All in May - we sure keep Premier Banks busy! ;o) Overall, our Income is higher than expected, expenses lower (with ~50% of our Mission obligations paid), so we're ready for summer! We'll talk about our investments next month (it's still up ~\$30K for the year [3%]), but it's a roller coaster).

FALLING BEHIND ON YOUR PLEDGE THIS SUMMER?
 Summer is a busy time of year. It's not always easy to keep your pledging current when you're on vacation or up at the cabin.
 With Oak Grove's online payment system, you can schedule automatic pledge payments to start and stop whenever you desire. Give it a try and see how much easier giving can be! Contact Sue Greimel or Barb Phenicie with questions. *Online payments. Easier, simpler, greener. (You may never have to spell "Presbyterian" again!)*

Presbyterian Women News

Two of Oak Grove's three circles (Evening Star, Goodrich-Nord, and Ruth) will not meet until September. Next year our study will be based on the Beatitudes.



The remaining dates for Ruth Circle to meet for lunch (11:30) at Gideon Pond are July 14 & August 11.

Session Highlights:

- Approved the job description for the half-time Director of Lifelong Learning.
- Approved the request from Oasis to provide emergency overnight shelter on an occasional basis for homeless teens in the Oak Grove building.
- Approved the request from the Technology Committee to spend up to \$7700 from the Endowment Fund for a choir projector in the sanctuary. (Currently a number of choir members are unable to see the screens during worship, due to the angle of the seating.)

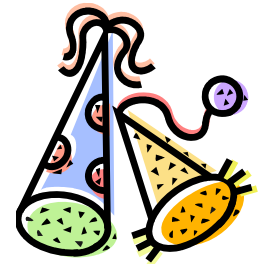
The Session is eager to be more connected to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA) and approved two actions to aid in this. First, each elder will receive the weekly e-newsletter of the PTCA. Second, our standing commissioners to presbytery will now be current members of the session, Priscilla Pearson and Rod Myers. Other current elders will continue to take turns attending presbytery. We want to issue a GIANT THANK YOU to Frank Uvodich and Jim Stanko, who have served as standing commissioners for many years. We are delighted that they will continue to fill in as needed.

The Search Committee for the half-time Director of Lifelong Learning (formerly Director of Christian Education) has begun receiving applications. Please pray for the committee and if you know of anyone who might be interested, have them send resumes to Jeanine Radtke at mnchick343@comcast.net.

July Birthdays

(If you don't see your birthday, we don't have that information or you requested that it not appear.)

- 1 Glenna Jean Anderson, Buzz Grondin
- 3 Al Frechette, Rebecca Michael
- 4 Vern Castle, Gloria Larsen
- 6 Pat Wilson
- 7 Don Dunham, Bettie Egeberg, Jim Lichtenberger
- 8 Dorothy Beattie
- 9 Dwight Dotson
- 11 *Kaitlyn Rossow
- 12 *Brandy Bliss, Mike Hoaglund, Jane Horn, Jean Millen, *Emily Propsom, Rodger Schwartz
- 13 Linda Brandner, Janette Mathison
- 14 Sandy Crum, Jeanette Dunham
- 15 Nancy Bogart
- 16 Jack Kley, Jane Lund, Rod Myers
- 18 Gordon Goodwin, **Glenn Pettit
- 19 Beverly Sands
- 21 Joel Greimel, Sara Impagliazzo, Adele Suttle
- 22 Lou Traeder
- 23 Jackie Hall, *Reid Lang, Priscilla Pearson
- 24 Erin Leach
- 25 *Freddy Alonzi, Julie Flanagan, Jill Gillies, Diane Samsal
- 26 Dick Lang
- 27 Jeanine Radtke
- 28 Ron LaPointe
- 30 George Wasson



***Important birthday**
**** Significant birthday**

CELEBRATIONS:

Mary Edmunds, Millisa Carter's grandmother, out of hospice with a full recovery.

Natalie Gebhard, Al and Ev's daughter-in-law, has completed treatment and is doing well

Cpt Stephen Marquez, son of Annette, has safely returned home from Iraq.

Cpl Aaron Short, son of Tod, has safely returned home from Afghanistan.

Karen Linscott, Lou Traeder's daughter, is in full remission.

Thank yous

I wanted to express sincere thanks for praying for my grandmother. She returned home this past Monday after having a full recovery, which we are calling a miracle. She went from being totally dependent in Hospice with no recovery in sight to being semi-independent with mild exercise. We are just elated with the recovery and know that only God could have had this type of impact on her health.

Milissa Carter

Thank you to all who keep our military personnel in your prayers.

Annette Marquez

A recent recipient of a gift from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help pay rent phoned saying, "Pastor, I just wanted to call and thank you for helping me out. You literally saved my life. I was at the end of my rope and contemplating...well, a lot of things. Thank you so much!"

From OGPC:

Thanks to your generous contributions to the Easter flower funds, Oak Grove was able to donate \$521.57 to VEAP.

Condolences to the families of:



Ruth Olson Dukelow, sister-in-law of Harriet and aunt of Debbie Dukelow and Donna Soderlund, on her death May 15th at the age of 91. Service was May 23rd in Des Moines, IA .

Joan Seefeldt, mother-in-law of Jim Carroll's son David, died May 29 after a struggle with cancer.

Betty Bresley, mother of Barb Skogland, died May 28. Services were held at Oak Grove on May 31.

Keith Ritchie, nephew of Bettie Egeberg, died Sunday, June 12th at the age of 60. Keith grew up in Oak Grove Church, the son of David and Marie and a descendant of Gideon Pond. The memorial service will be held at Oak Grove on July 7.



**Richfield Bloomington Grief Support Coalition
Summer 2011**

Thursdays, July 14—September 1, 2011
4:30 – 5:00 pm Educational presentation
5:00 – 6:00 pm Small groups will be formed to share concerns and experiences

Location: St. Edward Catholic Church
9401 Nesbitt Ave S, Bloomington
Contact: Chris Sorensen
952-835-7101

Anne Campbell, the coach of the Hopkins HS Girls Softball Team that finished third in the state, losing in the state tournament only to the eventual champion, Hastings.

Dick & Enid Lang on the birth of grandson, **Charlie Hayes Lang** on June 10.

Kaitlin Scott (daughter of Nancy and Rory) and **Jake Krentz**, who were married at Oak Grove on June 4!



A Publication of:

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www.oakgrv.org

Screens in the sanctuary are brighter!!!

You may have already noticed that the two screens used on Sunday mornings are much brighter and easier to read. The Technology committee received numerous inputs regarding the non-readability and color reproduction of words and images that were displayed with the previous projects.

After much research and two demonstrations, the committee selected two 12,000-lumen projectors which are over 4 times more powerful than the original ones installed nearly 10 years ago. Our package included extra bulbs, air filters and a 4-year warranty which means we should be maintenance free for a number of years.

This installation involved persons from both the Building and Ops and Technology Committees. Thanks to all for this effort. The new projectors were installed on June 6th.

We are currently working on a screen and projector system for the choir where the screen will be mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary above the clock. Our goal is to have it installed by the first of September when the choir returns to regular services.

Note: *The new sanctuary projectors are terrific! Thanks to those who have given to the Endowment Fund through the years. Your faithfulness makes special projects like this possible. And thanks to the Technology Committee for all their work in making this happen!*