

Oak Leaves

A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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Deadline for
the April
Oak Leaves is
- March 15 -

**March
2011**

Session Highlights

From January meeting approved:

- a Service Auction and Chili Cook Off on 3/13/2011, Youth Service on 3/9/2011 and Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, 2/20/2011.
- the 2011 General Budget
- 2011 denomination offerings for: One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, Thanksgiving and Christmas Joy. Approved participation in Race for the Cure, Paint-a-Thon, and Crop Walk. Approved a food collection for VEAP in March and the sale of Mother's Day cards in May.
- a Legacy Gift Giving workshop and luncheon for Sunday , March 6, 2011 and May 22, 2011.

From February meeting approved:

- to receive James Goodermont as a new member
- to elect Sue Greimel as Treasurer
- a request from the Mission Committee to have special baskets passed by the ushers each Sunday during the regular offering time for the new Schools for Peace Projects
- the Mission Committee request to have a collection of books and videos for "Book 'Em" from April 1-May
- a request from the Social Justice Committee to have an evening event on Apr 17 beginning with a small dinner

Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat

On March 19th and 20th you will have the opportunity to see many of our talented congregation members in our production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Performances are Saturday, March 19 at 3:00 and 7:00 pm and Sunday, March 20 at the 10:45 service and at 2:00 pm. The length of this show is approximately 1 hour. For the afternoon and evening performances there are reserved seat tickets available in the narthex on Sundays, March 6 and 13. There is no charge for these tickets; however, donations received at the performances will help cover the cost of this production.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" tells the story of Jacob and his family; specifically, the story of Joseph as told in Genesis Chapters 37-50. Katie Wasko is Joseph; the narrators are Sonya Butler, Sarah Olson, and Emma Wasko. Larry Pearson returns as Potiphar and Betsy Marvin as Mrs. Potiphar. Soloists include Bill Chadwick (Reuben), Gar Nordin (Simeon), and Erin Leach (Judah), along with a lively group of brothers and an intergenerational cast of big and little parts. An instrumental group and a chorus of children and adults contribute musically as well.

Many people are helping behind the scenes – we are thankful for all the time people are willing to give to make this production become reality. Lori Wasko, director and visionary, is a master at pulling everyone together. We owe her a

OAK LEAVES

Editor Beth Angerhofer

Mar15 is the deadline for the April newsletter. Articles may be edited for space and/or content. Oak Leaves is a monthly publication of:

OAK GROVE

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2011 Per Capita \$30.46

Fellowship

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It's a Party!

Make plans now to join with us to celebrate the 25th anniversaries of Judy Cooper's and Nancy Hauser's service to Oak Grove!

On April 3rd, immediately after the 10:45 service, the entire congregation is invited and encouraged to join in Gideon Pond Hall to offer a hearty "Thank You and Well Done!" to both members of our excellent music staff. Judy Cooper has been smiling at the choir, waving her arms, (and even occasionally accompanying various groups) since 1986, and we've been enjoying Nancy Hauser's quality organ playing and choir accompaniment for even a bit longer than 25 years!

Those wishing to contribute to the gift fund for this event are invited to make their (non-deductible) donation payable to: "Oak Grove Choir".

Oak Rovers We're having an evening of Cards & Dessert on Mar 12th

Time: 7:00-10:00 PM **Cost:** \$2.00/person

Where: Don & Jean Wagner's
8341 Lyndale Ave

Sign up: February 27 & March 6 **Contact:** Don or Jean

Intergenerational Retreat: **March 4 - 6**

Clearwater Forest - Leaning Tree Lodge

Cost: \$58 per room per night + \$15 per person for food (\$8/child)

Final costs will depend on the size of your group

Example: fee per couple - \$116 (2 nights/room) + \$30 (food)

Sign-ups will begin in mid February.

Contacts: Larry and Priscilla Pearson

Fellowship & Small Groups: Leaders (and participants) Wanted

The Oak Grove Fellowship Fair is happening again! On April 17th in Gideon Pond hall during education hour, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a wide range of activities.

We need people to take charge of a specific activity or event. Events can be physically active or not; one time event or ongoing; preferably (but not necessarily) low or no cost. We hope to find a wide range of family, intergenerational, active and not so active events. The purpose is to get groups of people together for fun and fellowship.

Last year we had groups go biking, kayaking, sailing, fishing and more. There was golfing on Saturdays and metal detecting, plus genealogy and Civil War and WWII roundtables.

If you are willing to take charge of an activity, please contact Ron Dubis at 887-6852 or any member of the Evangelism committee. If you have suggestions for a small group, there will be a box in the Narthex for this purpose.

"Joseph" cont'd from page 1: huge thank you for all the time she is putting in to organize and rehearse this show!! Plan on attending—invite your friends and neighbors, too! See you at the show! Judy

Dear Friends,

For several decades now the Sojourners Community, a very inspiring group of justice-oriented, evangelical followers of Jesus headquartered in Washington, D.C. has been helping all of us figure out how to be faithful in our calling to serve the "least of these," primarily through their magazine, *Sojourners*, and the writing and speaking of its founder, Jim Wallis. Recently the Sojourners folks sent out the following message. I can't improve upon it, so I pass it on as written. (Remember, the Bible has about 2000 verses about how we treat the poor.)

Right now Congress is considering a budget plan that would make a 9 percent cut in discretionary spending while giving a 2 percent increase for military spending. This would be devastating for domestic programs that provide basic nutrition, health, and opportunity to poor children and international aid programs that save lives every day.

As a country, we face difficult financial choices, but one thing that should not be on the table is to abandon the poor and vulnerable while allowing more military spending.

[Tell Congress to get its budget priorities in order.](#)

As Christians we ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" to make sure our actions reflect our deepest held values. So when it comes to decisions about our national budget, we ask, "What would Jesus cut?"

Military and defense spending make up over half of the federal discretionary budget. If instead of a 2 percent increase the defense budget took a 2 percent cut, it would save almost \$10 billion this year(1).

The biblical prophets make clear that a nation's righteousness is ultimately determined not by its GNP or military might -- but by how it treats its most vulnerable people. Jesus says our love for him will be demonstrated by how we treat the "least of these."

[Urge your legislators to remember our moral priorities when they vote on the budget.](#)

We can't move backwards on programs proven to work: international aid targeted at empowering women; vaccines and bed nets combating deadly diseases; school lunch programs and early childhood education that give poor children the opportunity to thrive; tax credits that reward work and help stabilize families. These are dollars we can't afford not to invest.

In Great Britain, Prime Minister Cameron made the choice to delay a costly nuclear submarine program while also increasing funding for international aid. We can do the same(2).

As we have all learned from the Great Recession, our economic choices matter. We must make financial decisions based on our values and not just short-term goals. [We must remind our members of Congress to remember what is at stake when they decide what to fund and what to cut.](#)

Before the budget vote in early March, the military-industrial complex will have lobbyists fighting for every dollar they can get. As people of faith, we need to speak out for the poor and for programs that support the common good.

In appreciation for your advocacy,

Tim, Hannah, Elizabeth, Duane, and the rest of the Sojourners team

Faithfully, Bill

**WORSHIP FOR:
MARCH 6 – 27**

***Sunday Mornings
Services at
8:15 and 10:45 AM***



MARCH 6

*Transfiguration of our
Lord*

Sermon by

Denise Dunbar-Perkins

MARCH 9

Ash Wednesday

Sermon by

Beth Hart-Andersen

MARCH 13

1st Sunday in Lent

Sermon by

Mary McNamara

MARCH 20

2nd Sunday in Lent

8:15 am—

10:45 am—"Joseph"

MARCH 27

3rd Sunday in Lent

Sermon by

Bill Chadwick



On April 3 and 10 you will have the opportunity to contribute to the Easter

flower fund and/ or Chancel flowers for the remaining open Sundays in 2011.

“Growing Future Generations at Oak Grove”

The Legacy Gift Giving committee invites you to a free lunch & learn event on **Sunday, March 6, 2011** immediately following the worship service. Our goal is to find ways to support the next generation to worship at Oak Grove Church. Steve Keizer, Development Officer Presbyterian Foundation will lead a workshop entitled **“Creative Giving--Ways to Support Christ’s Church beyond the Annual Pledge”**. Steve will provide valuable information that you can use in making your estate a lasting legacy of faith. He will also discuss options you may not have considered to provide for your family, reduce your taxes, and support the church and other ministries of your choice. If you are involved in estate planning, this luncheon is a must. **Please contact Al Netten or Bettie Egeberg if you plan to attend or would like more information.**

Social Justice Committee

A Day on the Hill 2011

Ten Oak Grovers participated in Day on the Hill, sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. JRLLC is the only interfaith organization in the country joining Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant folk together to speak up on behalf of the poor and powerless in their state. Governor Dayton (member of Westminster Presbyterian Church) addressed the 800 people gathered at River Centre. JRLLC Director (and Presbyterian clergy) Brian Rusche gave us some legislative briefing on the main issues: Impartial Judiciary, Save the Safety Net, Budget and Taxes, and Price of Government. We moved to the State Capitol rotunda for a brief “rally” (very decent and orderly) and then broke up to meet with our elected representatives. Unlike almost all the other groups that rally at the Capitol we were doing it not for ourselves, but on behalf of those who are often voiceless. To learn more go to JRLLC.org (includes photos) or ask one of the attendees: Ron Dubis, Sarajane and Rod Myers, Bob and Sandy Crum, John Crampton, Carol Frechette, Don Olson, Nancy Kachel and Bill Chadwick.

“Living Simply So Others Can Simply Live”

Unfortunately, we're producing and purchasing more plastic than we can recycle. It's not a closed loop. And as we all know, most plastic is not good for our Earth. Could we choose one plastic item that we usually buy and stop buying it? Maybe we don't need it at all, or maybe we can get it in a glass bottle or aluminum can or perhaps use our own container. There are a couple of plastic bottled items in our house that I'm going to try to change. I'd love to hear if you have any luck with this. It could be good to share ideas!

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Jacobson / krisannjacobson@gmail.com

Social Justice Committee

Clearwater Forest Spring Clean-up — All are welcome to experience Clearwater Forest in the springtime and help get the camp spruced up. the dates are April 11-13. We carpool and are home around 4:00pm on Wed. Cost is \$18 as our lodging and linens are furnished by the camp. Sign up will be March 27 and April 3. Questions? Call Dorothy or Gordon Beattie or Nancy Kachel

Schools for Peace Project

Schools for Peace project - raising money to build a school in Pakistan/Afghanistan - is accepting donations every day of the week. Money can be dropped in the school replica in the narthex. Checks can be made to OGPC with "Schools for Peace" on the memo line. Questions? Send to schoolsforpeace@gmail.com. Thanks for your support!!

Recent donations of OGPC mission dollars:

*\$2500 to support the 2011 Youth Mission trip to Guatemala

*\$3700 to VEAP, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People

March is Minnesota Food Share Month and Oak Grove will be collecting food donations all month to support VEAP, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People. VEAP, whose mission is "Neighbors serving neighbors in need", had its origins at Oak Grove, initially operating a food pantry out of a closet in the church basement. The organization has grown to offer a variety of support services: transportation assistance, social and financial support, food pantry assistance, and children and youth services.

Some stories from VEAP about helping our neighbors in need:

Alice and Bill have a 3 year old child and live in Bloomington. Bill was laid off from his job for three weeks, and Alice's part time job was not enough to pay the full amount of rent. VEAP used FHPAP Family funds for a loan to cover part of their rent, and they used the food pantry to help stretch their finances. VEAP also gave the family Minnesota Zoo passes to help support the emotional needs in a time of crisis.

A Bloomington family received a disconnect notice and owed \$460 to the gas company. The gas company wanted half of the total amount owed in order to make a payment arrangement. VEAP helped with a partial payment on the bill, so that the customer could set up affordable arrangements and still pay rent. VEAP also assisted with food two times a month, to ensure the family could stick to the payment plan they made.

A family of three living in Richfield was temporarily missing a father because he was deployed with the National Guard. Mom was working full time, but lost her job when she lost her childcare. She had a new job lined up, but it did not start for another two weeks and the next month's rent was already due. She used her last paycheck from her old job to pay March rent, but her first paycheck from her new job would not be until the middle of April, when May rent was due. Because of her gap in income, she had no funds to pay for April rent. VEAP used General Funds for a loan for her April rent and assisted with food.

In addition to the various food collections and financial donations OGPC makes to VEAP each year, there are quite a few OGPC members who volunteer their time at VEAP on a regular basis. These volunteers stock, pack and distribute food, help with seasonal events, and assist with office tasks.

Feed My Starving Children

On March 4-6 Bloomington is hosting a City-Wide **Feed My Starving Children** Mobile Packing Event at the Mall of America, with a Goal of 1 Million Meals, 5,000 volunteers, & \$190,000!!

Oak Grove is one of several churches involved. We have 12 spots reserved for Oak Grove on Sunday, March 6th, from 3-5PM contact Sue Greimel if you would like to help at that time. To volunteer for another time go to <http://volunteer.fmssc.org/Register/mobilepack/event.aspx?event=1103-31a>

MN Council of Churches Refugee Services Needs Volunteers with Large Vehicles!

If you own a large vehicle and are looking for a great volunteer opportunity to make a big impact, volunteer with MCC Refugee Services today! We will resettle 350 refugees from around the world this year, getting housing and furnishings for each family with the help of co-sponsorship groups, donors, and volunteers like you!

Families from across the globe come to the U.S. from refugee camps with almost no possessions. Help us make sure that every family has a furnished apartment by transporting furniture for apartment set-ups.

You can drive your vehicle while MCC supplies the “muscle power” and donations, or maybe you’d like to help find other volunteers to help you move or collect furniture and deliver to MCC or a family’s home, or by being an “on call” driver to assist co-sponsorship groups who lack access to transportation. Contact Holly at holly.larsen@mchurches.org or 612-230-3249 for more information.

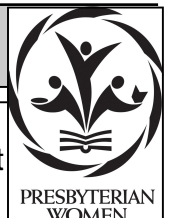
Budget & Finance

Through Jan 31st	2011		Act vs Budg	2010
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$67,295	\$54,667	\$12,628	\$53,619
Expense YTD	\$55,394	\$54,282	(\$1,112)	\$46,550
Income – Expenses	\$11,901	\$385	\$11,516	\$7,070

What a nice way to start the New Year!!! Monthly Income exceeded budget by \$12.6K (if only every month had 5 Sundays), and Expenses were over by \$1.1K (mainly the replacement Heat Exchanger). That leaves us \$11.9K in the black for the year. Historically, we build up steam through the 1st 5 months to make up for the summer lull, so keep the train moving!! Our investments are also doing well - up \$27K (2.5%) in just over 1 month! Thanks again to all of you!!

Memorials totaling \$12,830 were received in honor of Marilyn Dutcher, Barb Elder, and Harold Miller. *We are so grateful that families designated Oak Grove to receive these memorials. We will use them to continue the faithful legacy of ministry forged by these saints during their lifetime.*

Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE NEWS – Evening Star Circle meets Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Call Mary Jones. Goodrich-Nord Circle meets Wednesday, March 8 at 9:15 a.m. at the church. Call Joan Stanko. Ruth Circle meets Thursday, March 10, at 9:15 a.m. at Gideon Pond Activity Room. Call Ethel Furuli.

NEXT COORDINATING TEAM MEETING - will be held Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 9:00. All women who are members of the church are welcome to attend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING – will be held Saturday, April 9 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Boutwell’s Landing, Stillwater. The title of the gathering is “Reaching out to the Poorest of the Poor with God’s Love” and the keynote speaker is Rev. Heidi McGinnis. Registration forms are not yet available but will be soon. This event is open to all women members of Oak Grove, even if they are not involved in circles. Please contact Lou Traeder for further information.

Potluck Worship! On Sunday, March 20, the second service will be a presentation of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." For the 8:15 service folks are invited to follow the lead of the early church as Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a **hymn**, or a word of instruction, a revelation,.. " (I Cor. 14). You are invited to bring a favorite scripture passage, a poem, a song or ??? for a time of informal worship.

History Committee

Your new Oak Grove History Committee has been treasure-hunting, and we are discovering some priceless gems! Deep in the dark recesses of Oak Grove's storage cupboards lie records and photographs from Oak Grove's rich past.

You can be a part of our work! Our current projects include: 1) locating, preserving and displaying historically important items and photos; 2) an oral history project to produce videotaped interviews with our senior members.

We want your input and participation! We would love to have new members on our committee! Our photographic record is incomplete. Can we borrow and scan your old photos of Oak Grove activities and personalities! (We will treat them carefully and return them to you promptly.)

We learn as we go. No need to be a pro archiver to be a part of our work. Our next meeting is March 11 at 7pm. Please join us if you love history! Questions? Call Priscilla Pearson.

March Birthdays

March 1: Don Decknatel, Rosalie Johnson

March 2: David Johnson

March 3: Nancy Runyon

March 5: *Emmanuel Boateng, Jr. (14 years old), Stephen Tolvstad

March 6: Margaret Comstock

March 7: Laurie Grussing, Jane Propsom

March 9: Anne Byers, Corinne Hanson, *Madelyn Rossow (1 year old),
*Nana Yaw Kwarteng Tutuwaa (11 years old), *Emma Wasko (15 years old)

March 12: Heidi Schuchman

March 14: Neil Licudine

March 15: David Harder, Vanita Preska, Marian Schwartz

March 16: Therese Elinge, Alice Lindblom

March 17: Greg Morton, Connie Nesbitt, Laura Orr

March 18: Joan Stanko,

March 19: **Mary Crow (86 years young), Nancy Hauser, Allison Krueger, Dan Marone

March 20: Mark Bilalat, Anne Campbell

March 23: **Jean Anderson (90 years young), *Hanna Banner (18 years old),
*Ty Flanagan (8 years old), Christie Rossow, Lynette Severson

March 25: John Kim, **Marie Niles (92 years young)

March 27: Mary Jane Cochran, Holly Mae Dredge, Kathy Howell, **Svea Kanne (90 years young),
Maren Karow, Bob Nesbitt, Roger Parker, Elizabeth Stanford

March 28: **Ethel Furuli (87 years young), Enid Lang, Fran Muller, Sue Powers

March 29: *Zoey Coval (7 years old), *Jacob Deters (3 years old), James Goodermont

March 20: Chuck Mikkelson, **Phyllis Pettit (89 years young), *Cassidy Schafer (11 years old)

March 31: Shirley Albien, Norm Craven

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

*Important birthday
** Significant birthday



The Bloomington Public Schools is sharing information about two up-coming, no-cost senior theater opportunities.

On Thursday, March 3, Olson Middle School (4551 W. 102nd St.) will host a free senior performance of "Oz" at 9:30 a.m. Prior to the performance, beginning at 9:00 a.m., complimentary coffee and cinnamon rolls will be available in the lunchroom.

On Wednesday, March 9, Oak Grove Middle School (1300 W. 106th St.) will host a free senior performance of "Alice in Wonderland" at 10:00 a.m. Again, prior to the performance, beginning at 9:30 a.m., complimentary coffee and cinnamon rolls will be offered in the lunchroom.



Coming to the historic Pond House

(Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th St., Bloomington, between Portland and Nicollet Aves)

Maple Sugaring (Sun, March 13, Drop-In program, 2-4 pm)

Native Americans produced maple sugar for centuries and passed on their knowledge to frontier settlers. Now you can experience maple sugaring for yourself! Outdoors, learn about choosing trees to tap, collecting the sap, and boiling it down to make syrup. Inside the house, watch syrup transform into sugar and sample maple candy. Yum! Our hosts will be veteran Bloomington maple sugarers Jim and Kris Scanlon. House tours 1:30 to 4:00 pm.

The Dakota Indian Settlement at the Gideon Pond Farm 1863 to 1891 Sun, March 20, 2 pm
 Jeff Williamson will speak about the settlement of about 20 Dakota people who were allowed to stay in Bloomington under the protection of Gideon Pond after the U.S./Dakota War of 1862. Most of them were members of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, of which Gideon was the founding minister. Jeff is a descendant of Gideon Pond and has spent many years researching the fascinating Pond family history. House tours 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

THANK YOU

A great bouquet of thanks to all our one-on-one callers as well as to Dick and Ardella Frank, who regularly visit Oak Grove folks at Pres Homes. All these callers bring the love of God on behalf of the Oak Grove faith family to folks who have difficulty making it to worship these days. What a wonderful ministry!
 --From the pastors

Many thanks for the cards, payers and concerns that have been a part of my journey with lymphoma and chemotherapy. Still have a ways to go but at this time things are going in the right direction.
Don Dunham

CONDOLENCES TO:

Bev Heise on her mother, Jean Klingbeil's death Jan 28.

Family of Akosua Awere, on her death Feb 5
 Karolyn Lee & Family, **on the death of aunt, Lorna Smedstad, Jan 30**

Tim & Terry Taylor, on the death of brother, Terry Taylor, Feb 1

CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA-

Caregivers of People Living with Dementia will meet on Wednesday, March 2, from 2:00-3:30 PM at Laretta Racer's apartment at Gideon Pond (Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington), 9901 Penn Avenue South, #322. Please RSVP to the church office (952-888-4621) if you plan to attend.

Richfield Bloomington Grief Support Coalition Spring 2011

Thursdays, April 7 through June 2
 4:30 – 5:00 pm Educational presentation
 5:00 – 6:00 pm Small groups will be formed to share concerns and experiences

Location: Woodlake Lutheran Church
 7525 Oliver Ave S, Richfield
 Contact: Pastor Diane Roth 612-866-8449

Check out the Calendar Art in Dakota Room

March: Signs of Spring are where you find them! All creatures know the days are getting longer and warmer!



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Visit us on the web!
www.oakgrv.org

The Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

From Harriet Dukelow



At the beginning of last year, Pastor Bill suggested and encouraged OGPC members to purchase the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study for daily reading at home. I did, and it has been an eye opener for me to read about what the various Mission committees in churches and presbyteries all over our country have accomplished in helping needy people in so many different ways this past year. They have fulfilled a need with “Friendship Tables” and “Hospitality Lunches” just like our “Loaves and Fishes” here in Bloomington (they just call them by different names), made layettes for unwed mothers, started an OASIS Kiosk that visits festivals and community events, offering free water, prayer, and a chance to talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Fair trade products are raffled off, and information handed out about the church’s mission.

They have provided homes for families after disasters by joining together with other churches in their presbytery to sponsor them. They have worked in other countries in a relationship with the churches there to improve the lives of people. I am sure you will be impressed and be grateful for what our presbyteries are doing to make a difference in people’s lives. You will be more proud of our own mission committee and if you look the Mission Yearbook over, you will probably want to buy one.

Note: A great way to take advantage of the Yearbook is to have it delivered to your e-mail every day. Just go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/subscriptions/lists/mission-yearbok/> and sign up to get the devotions. This service is free.