

LOVING GOD...

CHANGING LIVES

Oak Leaves

A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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

November

2011

Dear Friends:

Sunday, November 6, is Dedication Sunday. This is a time to learn about and sign up for the various ministry opportunities through the Opportunity Fair going on in Gideon Pond Hall between services and the day we will be dedicating our Financial Pledges in worship. God has blessed the Oak Grove family so abundantly and we are going into the future with great enthusiasm and confidence. THANK YOU for your faithfulness!

Last month the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry sent out two representatives to meet with the Session for our regular triennial check-in. The first question was "How is God using this congregation and its members for ministry in the community and the world?" Elders began to throw out answers: VEAP (the local foodshelf and social service agency that began in the Oak Grove building and now is the largest foodshelf in Minnesota); Loaves and Fishes (free meals), Heifer Project (supplying people in developing countries with livestock), mission trips to Guatemala and South Africa, funding senior housing in the South African city of Blompark, fundraising for a school in Pakistan, being a welcoming and inclusive church for people from other countries and for LGBT folks, coat drives, Cornerstone (the domestic abuse shelter begun through Oak Grove members), Oasis for homeless youth and the list went on and on. I thought we might use up our whole hour on the first question! *I was so grateful and proud of you for all the ways in which God is using the Oak Grove family to serve the world. Thank you! Thank you!*

Faithfully,

Bill

LENTEN BOOKLET

The Worship and Music Committee is planning on providing the congregation with a Lenten devotional booklet for Lent - 2012. It seems so far away, and yet we must begin the process now in order to have the booklet ready for printing in January.

The theme we have chosen is "Our Journey of Faith Continues..." All of us are on a faith journey yet in many different places on that spectrum. If you would be willing to contribute an article for this booklet reflecting on an incident that is relevant to your own faith journey please contact one of these members of the committee or send an email to bkgerdes@comcast.net.

The **Opportunity Fair** (usually associated with Rally Day), will take place this year in conjunction with the Fall Stewardship Program and will be held on November 6 between services. Each committee and organization within the church will explain its responsibilities and invite your participation.

OAK LEAVES

Editor Beth Angerhofer
Editor-in-Chief Bill Chadwick

Oak Leaves is a monthly publication of:

OAK GROVE

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Part-time Custodian: **Tim Dubis**

Custodian Emeritus: **Bill Broers**

2011 Per Capita is \$30.46

Two Opportunities for Singles' Fellowship in November

"Slum Golium Night" at Joan King's

Friday, November 11 at 6:00 PM

Bring a can of soup, we will put them altogether and then we have "Slum Golium." It's the best soup you have ever eaten. It will be a fun time at Joan King's, 10024 Emerson Av. in Bloomington. RSVP: 952-881-2371.

Meet at Zeke's (7700 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington) on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 5:30 p.m. Call Jane Jacobson at 612-267-9068 if you're interested or have questions.



The Younger Members Breakfast Group will go back to second and fourth *Wednesdays* in November, 6:30 am at Perkins at Normandale and 98th St.

Attention Oak Rovers:

What: November Rendezvous
Pizza, salad, dessert, beverage,
followed by cards (Cancellation Hearts)

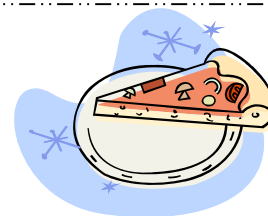
Cost: \$7

When: Saturday, Nov. 12 from 6:00 – 9:30 PM

Where: Applewood Pointe in Bloomington, 8341 Lyndale Ave. S. (NE corner of 84th & Lyndale. Entrance is 1 block east of Lyndale, turn left into parking lot)

Hosts: Bruders (952-881-4095) and Wagners (952-831-4460)

Sign up in church on October 30 and November 5.



Ever Thought about Ushering for Sunday Worship?

Want to help the congregation have an enhancing worship experience on Sunday morning? The Worship and Music Committee is looking for people to join an usher team at either service once a month. We have many good people doing those tasks now but there are opportunities for more people to be involved. If you're willing to give one Sunday a month to help support worship, please contact the church office or Larry Pearson or sign up at the coming Opportunity Fair on Nov. 6.

Please note that because of government privacy laws hospitals and care centers no longer are allowed to notify churches that a person has been admitted (even if the person lists his/her home church at admission). So the only way that the church staff will know if someone is hospitalized is if a family member or friend lets us know. (And we'd rather get 20 calls about the same person than none.) Thanks for your help!

2012 Men's Retreat at Clearwater Forest

Save the Date: February 3 - 5

Registrations will be accepted in December.

Harry Lichy will be this year's retreat leader.

Contact Greg Johnson 952-432-9389 glasm@frontiernet.net or Bob Nesbitt 952-941-6166 bob13100@msn.com if you have questions.



LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING ACTIVITIES

INTERGENERATIONAL WEEKEND

MARCH 2 - 4, 2012

CLEARWATER FOREST

Join us for a weekend of relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages in Leaning Tree Lodge at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest near Brainerd, MN. We welcome individuals, couples and families in all forms to this event.

Activities will include outdoor recreation-cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, hiking, etc. Indoor activities-cards, games, puzzles, reading, resting, eating, etc.

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

Final costs will depend on the size of our group

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

Watch for additional information in future Oak Leaves.

Sign-ups will begin in mid-February. Contact Larry and Priscilla Pearson with any questions. 952-835-9480

Volunteers Needed—persons familiar with video cameras and editing of output

Since we started using a video camera during the Sunday services, many have come forth asking if some of the service could be put on DVD's or on our web site so shut-ins or persons who could not make it to the service could enjoy this experience. This can be done, but we need persons to run the camera, edit the output and record to either CD's or DVD's. If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact Penny Nesbitt (pnesbitt@oakgrv.org), Beth Angerhofer (bangerhofer@oakgrv.org), or Gordon Goodwin (gcgjrg@earthlink.net). Thanks!

**WORSHIP FOR:
NOVEMBER 6-27**

**Sunday Mornings
SERVICES AT
8:15 & 10:45**



NOVEMBER 6

*32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
All Saints Day
Dedication of Pledges
Opportunity Fair
Sermon by
Bill Chadwick*

NOVEMBER 13

*33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Healing Service and Dedication of
Prayer Shawls
Sermon by
Beth Hart-Andersen*

NOVEMBER 20

*Reign of Christ Sunday
Sermon by
Bill Chadwick*

NOVEMBER 27

*1st Sunday of Advent
Sermon by
Mary Koon*

Looking Ahead

November 6th—All Saints Sunday. People are invited to bring in--ahead of time or that day--photos of their deceased loved ones to display around the sanctuary. We will especially honor those of the Oak Grove family who have entered the Church Triumphant in the preceding year.

November 13—Healing & Prayer Shawl Dedication Sunday. During our worship services, we will be emphasizing healing and there will be prayers offered for those individuals who request it. In addition, we will be dedicating prayer shawls that day. Anyone who has ever received a prayer shawl is invited to wear it that day.

November 23—Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Hillcrest Methodist Church, 9100 Russell (two blocks west of Penn Avenue), at 7:00 p.m.

November 26—Advent Festival at 9 am in Gideon Pond Hall. Sue Greimel is organizing this event...if you can help, please let her know (612-869-5947 or sgreimel@comcast.net).

Social Justice Meeting

Please come to Oak Grove for the **Social Justice Meeting** on Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:00 p.m. Our two main issues this fall are Immigration and the Campaign to Vote “No” on the Marriage Amendment. We need you.

Peace,

Your friendly Social Justice Committee

Schools for Peace Update

The Harvest Dinner fundraiser on October 8 raised \$600 to add to our building fund for the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan! This brought our total funds raised since our project kickoff in March to just over \$15,000. PEB has asked Oak Grove to build new classrooms at their girl's school in Martinpur, Pakistan. Martinpur is located in the Punjab Province of Pakistan. The PEB school in Martinpur was initially built in 1908 and while it has endured over 100 years, some of the classrooms are in deplorable condition and no longer safe for students. We have sent our initial donation of \$15,000 which will enable PEB to break ground this fall on a new classroom for Martinpur Girl's School!

Bike to Beat Hunger



Thanks to all the Oak Grove members (and some outside of the church) who supported bike to beat hunger for VEAP. Ten riders spent a few hours on a gorgeous Saturday riding the trails around Minneapolis. There was a stop for lunch at Freewheel bike on the Midtown Greenway after 25 miles, and then 4 of the 10 continued on for another 26 miles. A total of \$775.00 was raised to combat hunger.

Pictured are the participants: Jack & Sue Powers, Darwin Hauser, Don Alman, Bill Chadwick, Ron Dubis, Nancy Hauser, Bev Bliss, Jane Propsom, and Jake Van Pernis.

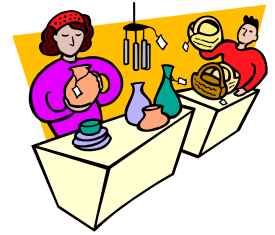
Oak Grove Shuttle Service Now Available

Look for the car with the flashing amber light parked near the RR crossing. Round trip is 5 minutes. Off-site parking is available at Washburn-McReavy, Penn Place Apartments and 10108 Penn Ave. Apartments. *Shuttle service is only available to/from Washburn-McReavy.*



World Jubilee Sale

Once again, Oak Grove will be selling coffee and olive oil at the World Jubilee sale. It will be held November 19th from 9-4 at Colonial Church of Edina, 6200 Colonial Way. Other fair trade items available are: cards, pottery, baskets, jewelry, clothing, carvings, toys, textiles, needlework, rugs and musical instruments from around the world. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on Christmas shopping and help others at the same time. If you have never attended, just come and check it out. It's fun just to see the different items and the artistry that goes into them.



Heifer Project International Pot Luck Dinner

Our annual International Pot Luck fundraiser for Heifer Project will take place on Saturday, November 19 at 6:00 pm at Oak Grove. Bring your favorite international dish to share with your Oak Grove friends and enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship. Proceeds support our annual donation to Heifer Project International and will purchase livestock for people in need around the world.

If you are unfamiliar with the work of the Heifer Project, join us for our Adult Ed session on Sunday, November 13. We will present information about the Heifer organization and introduce you to some new elements that will be a part of our Alternative Gift Market on December 4. Keep thinking about what items you can make and donate for our sale on December 4th!

Episcopal Community Services Supportive Housing Program

One of our newest Oak Grove Mission projects is sponsoring a homeless family through ECS Supportive Housing Program. Recent Oak Leaves articles have described the program and the role Oak Grove volunteers will play. Representatives from ECS will be at Oak Grove on Sunday, November 20 to present an Adult Ed session about this great program. Come and learn more about this new local mission initiative.

Project Homeless Connect Volunteers Needed

The next Project Homeless Connect will be held on Dec. 12, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Project Homeless Connect brings volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels together to serve people in our community experiencing homelessness. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities, but the majority of volunteers will act as guides, partnering with guests to help them find the resources they want.

The guides and guests will complete a quick intake to identify service priorities for the day, and will then explore the site to visit service providers. A sit-down lunch will be provided. A background in social services is not required; however, you do need a sense of humor, the willingness to help, and the ability to be on your feet for relatively long periods. All first-time volunteers are required to attend a training and orientation session. These sessions will take place beginning 11/28. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Look for more information in the Narthex in the upcoming weeks, or go to the website www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org/volunteer.htm to sign up. Any questions, contact Ron Dubis at 887-6852 or rojiti@aol.com.

An Open Letter from Desmond Tutu to the Reverend Grayde Parsons, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (USA) following the Church's removal of the ban on LGBT ordination:

Dear Brother in Christ,

I am writing you with the request that you share these thoughts with my brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

It is incumbent upon all of God's children to speak out against injustice. It is sometimes equally important to speak in solidarity when justice has been done. For that reason I am writing to affirm my belief that in making room in your constitution for gay and lesbian Christians to be ordained as church leaders, you have accomplished an act of justice.

I realize that among your ecumenical partners, some voices are claiming that you have done the wrong thing, and I know that you rightly value your relationship with Christians in other parts of the world. Sadly, it is not always popular to do justice, but it is always right. People will say that the ones you are now willing to ordain are sinners. I have come to believe, through the reality shared with me by my scientist and medical friends, and confirmed to me by many who are gay, that being gay is not a choice. Like skin color or left-handedness, sexual orientation is just another feature of our diversity as a human family. How wonderful that God has made us with so much diversity, yet all in God's image! Salvation means being called out of our narrow bonds into a broad place of welcome to all.

You are undoubtedly aware that in some countries the church has been complicit in the legal persecution of lesbians and gays. Individuals are being arrested and jailed simply because they are different in one respect from the majority. By making it possible for those in same-gender relationships to be ordained as pastors, preachers, elders, and deacons, you are being a witness to your ecumenical partners that you believe in the wideness of God's merciful love.

For freedom Christ has set us free. In Christ we are not bound by old, narrow prejudice, but free to embrace the full humanity of our brothers and sisters in all our glorious differences. May God bless you as you live into this reality, and may you know that there are many Christians in the world who continue to stand by your side.

God bless you.
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (Cape Town, South Africa)



New Windows for the Education Wing are being installed. The previous windows were the originals from 1957 and were in horrible shape. The Monday Morning Men under the leadership of Glenn Pettit have been overseeing this project. SELA is the contractor. Work began October 13 and should take about a month to six weeks to complete. The entire cost is about \$110,000 and is coming from the Long-Range Maintenance Fund and the Endowment Fund. We are so grateful to donors who have made this possible! During the construction phase there will be no parking during the week in the service road along the back of the building.

Presbyterian Women News

CIRCLE NEWS – Evening Star Circle meets Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Call Mary Jones, 952-831-7655. Goodrich-Nord Circle meets Wednesday, November 9, at 9:15 a.m. at the church. Call Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577. Ruth Circle meets Thursday, November 10, at 9:15 a.m. at Gideon Pond Activity Room. Call Ethel Furuli, 952-844-0435.

NEXT COORDINATING TEAM MEETING - will be held Saturday, November 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.

Loaves and Fishes Urgently Needs You!

For many, many years, Oak Grove members have been volunteering to prepare and serve meals for the needy right here in Bloomington. The location is just up the street at Creekside Community Center at Penn and 98th St. We serve on the second Thursday and Friday each month. Due to a lack of volunteers, we are facing the possibility of dropping one night. It's easy work.....dishing up food cafeteria style, pouring drinks, etc and it only takes a couple of hours. People of all ages are welcome - make this a family service event! **Loaves and Fishes really needs Oak Grove** to keep our two nights a month. Can you help? Contact Diann Boesch at 952-887-5099 or Sarah Olson at 952-884-7365 for more information or to sign up.



International Village Clinic

Dr. Abul Sarah was a fatherless, impoverished boy from Uttar Pradesh, India's poorest province. He eventually rose to senior engineering and marketing positions at Honeywell and MTS Systems over a 27-year career. In 1996, Dr. Sarah was harboring a growing desire to give something back in appreciation for his good fortune when chance intervened. While on a business trip to Calcutta, India, Dr. Sarah scheduled in time for a visit to Mother Theresa's Home for Dying Destitutes. By coincidence, he arrived at the hour when the nun received visitors. After learning of his humble Indian roots and success in the United States, Mother Theresa urged Dr. Sarah to pursue a mission of "love and human service."

Dr. Sarah founded International Village Clinic (IVC) in October 1999 to transform his dream into reality. IVC is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-sectarian organization, dedicated to bringing health and medical services to the poor villages of India. IVC's goals include disease prevention and treatment. Founded in October 1999 in Uttar Pradesh, northern India, IVC employs skilled medical personnel in an area where illiteracy and disease are rampant. Through the health clinic, the program brings technology, skill and energy to achieving these goals, while respecting people's culture and complementing existing resources. The preventative program supports the ongoing wellness of its participants through vaccinations, nutrition, education, childbirth services and family planning.

Oak Grove was informed of IVC through Dr. Abul Sarah's visit to the Rotary Club in Bloomington. Rotary member Karen Arazi informed Abul about Oak Grove's commitment to mission. Abul then contacted Jake van Pernis about IVC. Jake invited Abul to a Mission Committee meeting where he shared his story and the story of IVC's work in Uttar Pradesh. The Mission Committee then discussed possible support, and decided to send \$1,000 from the 2011 budget to the program. The headquarters for donations is in Bloomington.

Thru Sept. 30 th	2011		Act vs Budg	2010
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$470,377	\$470,780	(\$403)	\$442,288
Expense YTD	\$487,281	\$506,097	\$18,816	(\$13,572)
Income – Exp	(\$16,903)	(\$35,317)	\$18,414	(\$13,572)

Now that the cool weather's here, we're hoping to turn the corner (5 Sundays in October surely can't hurt either!). As usual, the summer slide continued into September (monthly income was \$7K under budget, expenses \$2.8K under). The good news is that our year-to-date income is within \$400 of what we predicted (how's that for forecasting!!), and expenses are under by ~4%! New Covenant also improved slightly (although we're still not back to Jan 1st levels). As of Oct 14th, we've lost \$14K for the year (-1.31%), with \$730.4K in Endowment, \$262.9K in Session Designated, and \$65.3K in Long-Term Building Maintenance. Memorials were received in honor of Barb Elder. Thank you again for enabling Oak Grove to help our neighbors in need.

November Birthdays

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

***Important birthday ** Significant birthday**

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Virgil Muller |
| 2 | Karen Bester; Sonya Butler; Bob Heise |
| 3 | Betsy Marvin |
| 4 | Donna Castle; Jeremy Henriksen |
| 5 | Cassandra Snyder |
| 8 | Perk Stanko (**89 yrs young) |
| 9 | Lillian Johnson (**97 yrs young) |
| 13 | Karyn Arazi; Clinton Burnes |
| 14 | Beverley Carroll; Paige Ferguson |
| 15 | Barb Skogland |
| 16 | Dan Olson; Frank Uvodich |
| 18 | Randy Johnson; Nancy Lichy; Gary Rossow |
| 21 | Lila Netten; Mitzi Pickard (**86 yrs young) |
| 22 | Dora Carr (**94 yrs young); Linda Rose |
| 23 | Adam Wilkens |
| 25 | David Schafer |
| 26 | Bob Traeder |
| 27 | Phil Hall |
| 28 | Babs Estes; LeRoy Horn |
| 29 | Maxine Engberg (**86 yrs young);
Isabelle Wideman (**88 yrs young) |
| 30 | Samuel Bull; Dick Fields; Jeanne Goodwin |

Pond Events **401 E 104th St.**

Making Hand-dipped Candles Drop-in Program

Sunday, November 6, 2 – 4 pm

Agnes Pond made their family's candles, which were the only source of light for the Pond family before the 1860s. Try your hand at dipping candles, and make a pair to take home. Learn first hand why the Pond family was so pleased when kerosene lamplight became available!

Causes of the Dakota War of 1862

Sunday, November 20, 2 pm

John LaBatte presents "Causes of the Dakota War of 1862." Missionary Stephen R. Riggs wrote: "The War came sudden. We were at a loss to know the reason. Some causes were superficial and others were deep-rooted and had been long-working." Many of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the Dakota War of 1862. He has spent more than 20 years studying their history.

An Inquirers' Class for those interested in learning about membership in the Oak Grove Church family will be held Sunday, November 13 from noon-2 PM AND Sunday, November 20, 9:15-10:35 AM. (We ask people to attend both.) If you are planning on coming, please let the church office know. Questions, contact Pastor Bill.

Congregational News & Events

Chancel Choir To Premier Special Musical Offering

On **November 6th**, our Chancel Choir will be singing a new choir anthem written for us by our fabulous organist/accompanist, Nancy Hauser. "God Is With Us" is the title and it is in memory of Nancy's parents, Bob and Glenna Jensen; good, kind and generous people.

Nancy's mom was a church organist and sang with her choir when she wasn't playing. Her father, though not a musician himself, loved good choral music. Thus, her desire to write a choral piece; the first she'd attempted.

Nancy said the words to the winter verse came to mind first, since she was grieving the most recent loss of her father. From there, she went on to create verses about each of the seasons.

She has written a sweet melody with a rich harmony to enhance the words. The text is as follows:

God, you're with us in the spring time, at the budding of our lives; In the whispers of creation calling us to love and light.

Then our hearts were filled with wonder at the marvel of your world, And our spirits in their dawning sang in unison with Yours.

God is with us in midsummer when the world is filled with warmth, In the beauty of the autumn, in our shelters safe from harm.

When our lives are overflowing with the goodness of the world; Even, God, when we forget You, when our hearts are closed.

God, You're with us in the winter when the days are gray and cold, When our hearts are broken, leaden, and our spirits thin and worn.

When we need You, God, You're with us, in the center of our hearts. If we listen we will hear You calling us with peace and love.

You are with us at the closing, at the ending of this life. Then we find You in Your mercy, drawing us to Your side.

God is always at the center, always holding us close;

Waiting patiently, so gently, 'til it's time to take us home.

It's a beautiful piece, which we have loved working on and are proud to premier.

Thank you, Nancy!



Thank yous

Eleanor Conrad would want her Oak Grove family to know how much she loved all of you and to thank you for your love and prayers surrounding her death. Her friend, Juliet Anderson, and I wish to thank those of you who helped keep her spirit alive during her beautiful funeral.

Sara Impagliazzo

Condolences to the families of:

Conrad Solomon (Bing's father) on his death Sept. 18. Service was September 20.

Elmer Larsen (Gloria Larsen's father) on his death Sept. 26. His service was Sept. 29 in St. Paul.

Clarence Lamorie, on his death Sept. 29. Service was at Oak Grove on Oct. 7.

Jim Frankhauser (grandson of the Frethem's) who died on Oct. 14 at the age of 36. A service was held at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake.

Session Highlights from September 27:

We enjoyed a meeting with the Committee on Ministry representing the Presbytery and had a lively discussion on the questions that they presented to us.

Approved the facilitating of Kiva loan donations by members during Heifer/Kiva Alternative Give Market Dec. 4.

Approved the selling of scarves and shawls made by women associated with PEB SHE program (school in Pakistan) at the Oct 8 Harvest Dinner and other appropriate events in the future.

Session Highlights from October 25:

Accepted with regret the resignation of George Wasson from the session, due to Pat's illness.

Approved the Sr. Hi Kayak Trip to the Apostle Islands in June, 2012.

An extended conversation about the use of and rules for our various funds



A Publication of:

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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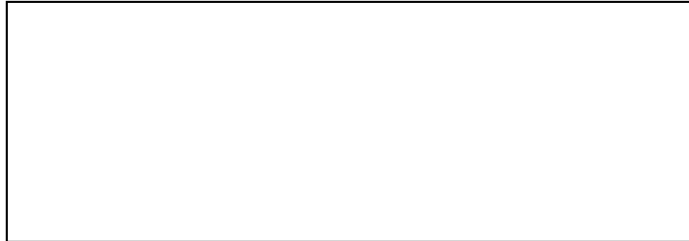
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Christmas will soon be here...

We have the opportunity on Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 to donate money in honor of, in memory of, or in remembrance of a special event to celebrate Christmas. These contributions allow us to provide flowers and greens for the sanctuary with the remainder of the donations going to VEAP. On these same Sundays you can also order chancel flowers for each Sunday. Our goal is to have two arrangements each Sunday.

Advent Festival
Saturday, November 26 9 AM—11 am
Gideon Pond Hall

Cost is \$7.00

This will be a perfect opportunity for you to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child by making an Advent wreath.

- Hand dipped candles
 - Live greens for the wreath
 - During this event you will have the “hands on experience” of preparing your own Advent Wreath
- Special treat ...warm cinnamon rolls

Sign up in the narthex starting Nov. 6

Sue Greimel is organizing this event...if you can help, please let her know (612-869-5947 or sgreimel@comcast.net).