

LOVING GOD...

CHANGING LIVES

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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2017 VBS



VBS Supports Feed My Starving Children



Deadline for the August 2017 Oak Leaves is - July 15 - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

July 2017

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 Bloomington, MN 55431
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Website: www.oakgrv.org

Office Hours
 Monday—Thursday
 8:30 am—5:00 pm
Friday—8:30 am—Noon

Oak Grove Staff
 Ministers: **the 521 members**

Pastor **Bill Chadwick**
bchadwick@oakgrv.org

Assoc. Pastor
Mary Koon
mkoon@oakgrv.org

Interim Assoc. Pastor
Jermaine Ross Allam
jrossallam@oakgrv.org

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 Kitchen Coordinator/Cook:
Open

Communications Specialist
Rebecca Ensteness

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**
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Lacey Jones

Part-time Custodians: **Tim Dubis**
MartinAlan Smith

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DEACONS' BENCH

submitted by Moderator, Jeri Anderson

Our Health Ministry Committee maintains an inventory of medical equipment that can be used by Oak Grovers in need of items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, special bathroom items, etc. The items are regularly inspected for cleanliness and functionality. The equipment is stored in the lower level of the church and can be signed out and returned when no longer needed. **A big 'thank you' to Paul Schalekamp for maintaining the medical supply for the past few years.** He built and painted a wall and kept the space organized and accessible. We appreciate all the hours of work he devoted to this ministry! Paul is handing this important ministry back to the Deacons, so if you need any help with borrowing, returning, donating medical supplies, or to help with this ministry, please contact Marikay Wolf (952-881-2615).

Starting in July, Mary Koon and Deacon volunteers will provide home communion to those who wish to receive it. Please let Mary or one of the Deacons know if you wish to add a name to the list and, if you are a Friend to Friend with someone and would like to help with a communion visit, please let us know that, too (mkoon@oakgrv.org or ande2504@umn.edu).



"The Great Oak Grove Get Together..."

PICNIC WORSHIP

Save the date! August 27 at 10:30 am
 at Moir Park pavilion (Morgan Ave & 104th St)

Upcoming Group and All-Church Outings

>Sunday, July 9, 1:10 pm, join fellow Oak Grovers as the **Twins play the Baltimore Orioles**. We have 40 tickets reserved in the Field View section 303, rows 3-5. The cost is \$18.00. Look for the life-size Brian Dozier in the narthex to sign up, or contact Ron Dubis (rojiti@aol.com) to reserve your space..

>September 9, 7:00 pm, Minnesota United Soccer Outing. Remember the fun you had at Met Stadium watching the Minnesota Kicks? Make plans now to see our newest pro sports franchise take on the Philadelphia Union. Save the date and make the trek to TCF Bank Stadium. We have tickets reserved and the cost is \$20.00. Sign-up in the narthex or contact Ron Dubis (rojiti@aol.com) to reserve your space. Sign up deadline is August 20.

>September 29 - October 1, SAVE THIS WEEKEND for Woodcutting at Clearwater Forest. We work hard and play hard. This is an amazing, inexpensive time up north with church family and friends that you will not want to miss. Contact Carrie Wilkens for more info (carriewilkens@comcast.net).

Congregation News/Events

May-June 2017 Preaching & Lectionary Schedule

Preaching

Jul 2 Mary Koon
Jul 9 Jermaine Ross Allam
Jul 16 Bill Chadwick
Jul 23 Bill Chadwick
Jul 30 John Lee (*see article below*)

Lectionary

John 10:10
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Ephesians 4:1-16 & John 15:1-4

The Worship and Music Committee is intentionally adding diversity to our guest preacher list. While Pastor Bill is on vacation from July 29-August 12 our guest preachers will be the following:

July 30: the Reverend John Chang-Yee Lee, chaplain of United Theological Seminary in New Brighton. A graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary (as is Pastor Bill), Rev. Lee is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament with the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has served as a hospital chaplain in acute and long-term settings and as a congregational pastor focusing on congregational redevelopment and community ministries. Rev. Lee is a musician and songwriter. With his wife and children, he moved to Minnesota in 2008 from San Francisco, CA. His wife, Evelyn, is Eugene Orr's sister.

August 6: Elona Street-Stewart, Delaware Nanticoke, is a ruling elder and member of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian in Saint Paul. She is the Synod Executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, following many years serving the PCUSA on racial justice matters in mission development and support programs. Also, for the past 40 years, she has been involved in grass root and national justice advocacy on racial equity, Indian education, family empowerment and public policy. Elona has received many honors, including Minnesota American Indian Parent of the Year 1998, a national PW Women of Faith Award 2010, and a Peacemaker Award in recognition of Mahatma Gandhi's 147nd birthday. Serving on the Saint Paul School Board for three terms, she was the first Native American elected to an urban Minnesota school board as well as the first to be installed as a synod executive in the PCUSA. An Upward Bound student from Philadelphia and Occidental College graduate, Elona and her husband, Rev. David Stewart (now retired long-time pastor of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul), have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

Upcoming Singles Events

(and anyone who would
enjoy the fellowship)

>Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 pm, the
Rockin' Hollywoods

>Thursday, August 3, 7:00 pm, Blues
and Bar-B-Q with the Groove
Merchants. Come early to this one,
food will be available for purchase.

Both are outdoor concerts at
Normandale Lake Bandshell,
84th St. and Chalet Road.

Bring a chair or blanket.
Call Jane Jacobson at
612-267-9068
if you have questions.

Pastoral news for July

Jermaine Ross Allam preaches on July 9 and then concludes his ministry with Oak Grove on July 15, other than his big farewell on August 13.

Mary Koon will be on vacation July 23-29.

Bill Chadwick will participate in a continuing education event through the Collegeville Institute at St. John's University, July 6-12. This is an invitation-only event entitled "Writing Theology for the General Public." The teacher/facilitator is Dr. Thomas Long, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, one of the country's foremost preachers. Bill will work on his collection of essays that he hopes to complete in the next year or so. Bill will also be on vacation from July 23-August 6.

Thinking about

Christmas in July. The December event we have called Heifer and Alternative Gift Markets has not brought in as much money, auction items, or general interest in recent years. To help put new life into the event, going forward the event will be called the **Mission Gift Fair**. We will continue to support the Presbyterian Mission Agency by offering you an opportunity to purchase animals, tools, clean water and other items that will make an impact to those in need. In addition, you can purchase SHE Project items from Pakistan, coffee, olive oil, give to KIVA and other items that we might be able to offer you. And of course, we will have auction items for you to purchase as gifts for family and friends.

You can help! We would like to put a call out now for you crafters, woodworkers, quilters, knitters, canners and bakers to begin to think about what you can make to help this event's success.

Can you make wooden children's toys, quilt, sew, paint a picture, provide a service (the list goes on and on)? Think about what you want to contribute, and start working now, so that we can build our inventory of auction offerings.

We need your help. If you have ideas or suggestion that you would like to talk about feel free to contact, Sharon Nolte, 952-884-1014.



Creating Peacemakers of the Future

"The youth were inspired by your work and that your method of work transformed the way they saw

peace. They did not think peace could be achieved by unarmed protection before. Working in countries they could identify with also inspired them deeply on a personal level." – Eric Ly, Youth Leadership Initiative Coordinator for the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

This past year, students from the Youth Leadership Initiative of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation have been visiting local organizations dedicated to creating peace in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. A few youth ages 14-18 visited Nonviolent Peaceforce's St. Paul office as part of their Peace Action Team efforts. After meeting with various organizations, they were excited to go out into the world as peace-makers. The youth decided to fundraise for two organizations they researched and believed in, so they painted and sold peace poles to donate the proceeds to Nonviolent Peaceforce and the White Helmets. We are very grateful that Nonviolent Peaceforce inspired these young people and we appreciate their hard work to create peace for civilians living in conflict!

Pictured: The Peace Action Team. (Top Row from left to right: Adrian Armendariz, Janai Dixon, Haiwee Htoo, Ba Po, Dustin Koch-Simmons, Bot Row from left to right: Eh Tha Blay Soe, Chai Lee, Not pictured: Ni Doh She, Wah Soe).

Social Justice "Emergency Bag" Assembly

We see folks with cardboard signs standing on the street corners asking for help. What to do? How about a bag of emergency items?

On Sunday, July 30, the Social Justice Committee and any who wish to participate will assemble bags with useful items (that can be kept in a car in summer heat) for us to give to folks in need. You can help us ahead of time by bringing items such as granola bars, travel-size toiletries, socks, \$7 McDonald's gift cards or pop-top single-serve tuna, peanut butter or beans, and dropping them in the donation box by July 23. You may also write a check made out to Oak Grove with "Emergency bags" on the memo line and we will purchase what we need. Contact Marsha Pridgeon with questions at marsha.macy@yahoo.com.

**Attention
Creative People!
Come and Join the
Creative Hands Across the River Crafters**

No matter what your interest is, bring your projects and join our friendly monthly meetings alternating between Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of the Apostles (701 E. 130th St, Burnsville). It is a fun way to get to know folks from PCA and to get some work done on your crafting projects. Plus, we have treats! We meet 9:00am - Noon on one Saturday each month (please note dates and locations below).

July 8	at Oak Grove
August 12	at Church of the Apostles
September 16	at Oak Grove
October 14	at Church of the Apostles
November 11	at Oak Grove
December 9	at Church of the Apostles

Questions? Contact Yvonne Dodge yvonedodge@hotmail.com (Oak Grove) or Dawn Baddeley dawnrn90@comcast.net (PCA)

A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.



**TUESDAY, JULY 4
8:00 - 11:00 AM
at The Gerdes Residence
10741 Sheridan Avenue S. 55431**

**Please bring non-perishable food
items or cash donations.**

SEE YOU THERE!!!

The Presbytery needs your help. Or more specifically, the Presbytery Nominating Committee needs your help in filling vacancies on committees. (Unlike previously, for most committees, you do not need to be an ordained elder.) The committees most in need of additional members are the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Ethics and Nominating Committee. They each need at least 3 members to reach their minimum. Most others have vacancies or are not at their maximum.

Committee descriptions including meeting times and places are on the PTCA website <www.ptcaweb.org>. For committee information click on "for PTCA members" and then on Committees.

If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, contact Manley Olson, chair, PTCA Nominating Committee at manleyolson@gmail.com or 651-644-2848.

TECH CORNER

Once again the Technology Committee is looking for volunteers to operate the sound and light board. With the current number of volunteers, our commitment is usually only one Sunday per month. Now that we are in the summer schedule of one service, this would be a great time to give it a try. Personalized training is provided and we normally work in pairs, so you don't have to work alone. If you want to give it a try, contact anyone at the SLV console, or Gordon Goodwin at 952-890-7838 or gcqjrg86@gmail.com.

The Social Justice committee has recently been discussing the problem of payday lending and what we at Oak Grove can do about it.

What is a payday loan? (from exoduslending.org)

Payday loans are small-dollar loans (usually \$200 – \$1,000) with interest rates as high as 450%. Unlike a typical loan, payday lenders require the borrower to pay off the loan in full on their next payday. Payday lenders require direct access to the borrower's bank account and often make these loans without fully investigating the borrower's ability to repay the loan. Borrowers unable to pay off the loan by their next payday often re-borrow, leading to "the payday debt trap."

The debt trap is most severe in low-income communities and communities of color, where many people don't qualify for conventional bank loans or credit cards.

We are exploring partnering with Exodus Lending to help low-income people escape the payday debt trap. Exodus Lending is a non-profit founded by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to work with people trapped in payday loan debt throughout Minnesota. Exodus will pay off predatory payday loans and program participants pay the loan back, with no interest and no fees, over the course of a year, instead of having to pay it back all at once. In addition, they provide financial counseling.

So far, the Social Justice Committee has publicized information regarding Exodus to VEAP and the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Agency. We are planning educational forums this Fall to further educate the congregation about this issue.

As with all Social Justice issues, there are pros and cons, but we on the Social Justice committee feel that although sometimes necessary, this financial product does more harm than good. We urge the congregation to pass along the information to those who may benefit, and to support our efforts to work for legislation that will most benefit those who, out of necessity, need to resort to payday loans for emergency or day to day situations.

More information can be found at the following:

<http://exoduslending.org>

<http://freakonomics.com/podcast/payday-loans/>

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/1567/what-payday-loan.html>

Some good news from the federal government:

On May 25, the new U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Purdue, confirmed that federal agencies will continue the two-year, science-based study of the watershed of the Boundary Waters and whether or not sulfide-ore copper mining should be allowed next to the Wilderness.

Through May 31 st	2017		Act vs Budg	2016
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$290,285	\$284,975	\$5,310	\$291,717
Expense YTD	\$293,299	\$321,135	\$27,836	\$267,158
Income – Exp	(\$3,014)	(\$36,160)	\$33,146	\$24,559

Our finances took a slight downward turn as we finished the Program Year, putting us in the red for the 1st time this year (\$3,014 – not including Unrealized Gains on Investments). We're still doing much better than expectations (by \$33,146), but with summer now upon us, please keep the pledges coming!! Our investments continue to do well, as shown below (Fund Balances as of 5-31-17):

Endowment \$989,064	Long Term Building Maintenance \$206,950
Session Designated \$293,287	Operating Reserve \$259,607 (surplus is \$238,290)
Building Maint & Repair Designated Fund \$168,032	

We're so fortunate to have these monies available for special needs!! Thank you!

“Per capita” is what Oak Grove pays per member for the administrative expenses of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly. **In 2017 that is \$33.75.** This means that Oak Grove in total is required to pay about \$18,000 per year for these services. Some of you give a gift to cover your per capita on top of your general fund giving, about \$4000 total. Thank you! If you are able to cover your per capita, that would be fantastic. If everyone would do so we would have available an extra \$14,000 for mission giving! Blessings!

Excerpted from the March 15, 2017 issue of
Christian Century

IN FROM THE COLD: The homeless often spend lots of time in public libraries, especially in the winter, and some public libraries have embraced an assisting role. In Dallas, library staff often open the doors early for the homeless and serve them coffee. The library also has programs to help the homeless gain job skills and enroll in health insurance. San Francisco's library has a social worker on staff, San Diego's main library has hired a mental health caseworker, and the Baltimore library has a community technology center. (NPR, February 7)

WRONG TARGET: Between 1975 and 2015 no Americans were killed by persons from any of the seven nations named in President Trump's travel ban. In the same period 1.34 million American lives

have been lost to guns, including murder, accidents, and suicide. That's a number close to all American lives lost in war since the Revolutionary War. With their access to firearms, husbands in America are far more deadly than Islamic terrorists. (*New York Times*, February 11)

HUSKER HOSPITALITY: Red state Nebraska has resettled more refugees per capita than any other state, despite many residents' misgivings about immigrants. In the past two years, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska has settled 1,531 refugees, including 21 families from Syria. One resident of Omaha said after 9/11 that he hated Muslims. After some Syrian families moved into his neighborhood, he said, "The Muslims here were all about family, and they just loved everyone....These people, they really changed my heart." (*Washington Post*, February 5)

July Birthdays

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

*Important birthday (1-21) ** Significant birthday (85+)



- 3 Al Frechette
- 4 Gloria Larsen
- 6 Doug Pine; Pat Wilson
- 7 Tyler Bassett*17; Don Dunham**86; Bettie Egeberg**88
- 8 Dorothy Beattie**88; Ron Clark**92
- 11 Kaitlyn Rossow*15
- 12 Brandy Bliss; Mike Hoaglund; Jane Horn; Emily Propsom; Rodger Schwartz**88
- 13 Linda Brandner
- 14 Sandy Crum; Jeanette Dunham; Mary Koon
- 15 Nancy Bogart**86
- 16 Jack Kley; Jane Lund; Rod Myers

- 18 Gordon Goodwin; Glenn Pettit**97
- 19 Beverly Sands
- 21 Sara Impagliazzo
- 22 Zada Broers; Lou Traeder**88
- 23 Jackie Hall**85; Reid Lang*15; Priscilla Pearson
- 24 Peter Johnson
- 25 Freddy Alonzi*17; Julie Flanagan; Jill Gillies; Diane Samsal
- 26 Dick Lang
- 27 Jeanine Radtke
- 30 George Wasson**86

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursdays thru August 24, 2017, 4:30-6:00 pm
Woodlake Lutheran Church, 7525 Oliver Ave S
Richfield MN 55423
612-866-8449 Woodlakechurch.org

- Jul 6 *Honoring a Loved One's Life & Memory Through the Year*
- Jul 13 *Exploring Memory & Meaning: The Pain & the Gain*
- Jul 20 *Family Matters: The Impact of Loss on Families*
- Jul 27 *Dealing With Being Grief-Stuck*
- Aug 3 *Grief Demystified—Part I*
- Aug 10 *Grief Demystified—Part II*
- Aug 17 *Wellness During Grief*
- Aug 24 *Myths of Grief*



Thanks to the **Race for the Cure** team — there were 24 participants who donated over \$500 to support the cause!! Thanks to Marikay Wolf, Kathy Howell, Linda Johnson, Chad & Cassie Acker, Fred & Karen Alonzi, Carol & Jackie Osweiler, Deb, Steve, & Grace Gussert, Al, Sue, Neal, Kara, Kevin, Katie, Isaac, Penelope, Joel & Addy Greimel, and Anne & Mike Mee!



VBS helps Value Village sort clothing donations.



Thanks, Condolences & Congratulations!

Thank You, Oak Grove

Thank you, Oak Grovers for your prayers, cards, and expressions of support during Audrey's recent health crisis. Keep smiling!
Audrey & Steve St. Martin & Family

Thank you, everyone at Oak Grove, for the cards, prayers and best wishes during Gordon's recent hip surgery and recovery. He is progressing well.
Gordon & Jeanne Goodwin

I want to thank you for being so responsive and welcoming to us in our time of need. Wilson's funeral went smoothly and was lovely because of the many caring people who helped and worked that day at Oak Grove. Judy Cooper played beautiful hymns and the women in the kitchen were wonderful and packed up the leftovers which the family later ate at Moir Park. After the cemetery burial, we all went to the brick houses (Pond Dakota Park) to visit. Wilson was a fine man. He was baptized in your church. We were married there in your chapel in 1982, and then his funeral was there. His middle name was Gideon after his great grandfather.
The Wilson Pond Family

Dear Oak Grove Teammates, Thanks again for the fun reception last Sunday in recognition of Harry Lichy's 60th anniversary of ordination and my 40th. I am so, so blessed o be in ministry partnership with all of you and with this fine staff!
Gratefully, Pastor Bill

Condolences to family and friends of:

Khammung, Sida Souvannasane's grandmother, who died in Laos on April 25.

Bob Morrison, Kris Jacobson's brother-in-law, who died while traveling in The Czech Republic on May 7.

Debbie Schuette, Rick's sister-in-law, who died on May 11,

Lois James who died May 21 following a long illness.

Wilson Pond, a descendent of Gideon and cousin of Steve St. Martin, died May 22.

Marilyn Stotesbery who died May 26 following a long illness.

John Skovran, Susan's father, who died May 28.

Pat Stone, Sharon Solomon's mother, who died May 30.

Bernadette Chassé, Jacques' mother in Ontario, Canada, who died June 15.

Bette Wilkens, Adam's mother, died June 19.

Congratulations!

Brooke & Ross Brandt on the birth of daughter, **Aria Vera**, on June 3. Proud big brother is Adonis.

Bob and Pamera Ritter, who were remarried here at Oak Grove on June 28!

Marc Gillies on his fungus free status!

Former member **David Alexander** on his selection for the Hall of Fame for Church Business Administrators for 2017. The award is annual and will be presented at their annual conference the first week of July, at National Harbor, MD. If you would like to send your congratulations to David you may reach him via email at hogs1971@gmail.com —he's an Arkansas Razorbacks fan. He and Charla now reside in Hagerstown, MD.

Karen Gerdes... was born and raised in Manitowoc, WI. Her father, John, was of pure German descent and was a high school math teacher and basketball coach. He was honored in the Hall of Fame at the Kohl Center in Madison, WI. Her mother, Berniece, was English, Danish, and Norwegian. Her claim to fame was that she was a descendent of William Dawes, who rode with Paul Revere. She was very proud of that fact. She was a first grade teacher for many years. Karen feels that because her parents both lost their parents at a young age they did not practice many ethnic traditions.

Karen graduated from Wisconsin State University at Oshkosh and taught kindergarten in Wauwatosa, WI, before moving to Bloomington in 1969. She was a member of the singing group, "The Generation Gap," where she met friends who brought her to Oak Grove and where she also met husband, Bob. He and she were senior high youth leaders at Oak Grove before they were married at Oak Grove in 1974 by Pastor Dave Kachel. After teaching kindergarten for nine years Karen took a leave to be a mom to Heidi and Peter- their two children. She returned to school and to teaching Early Childhood-Family Education in 1983 --which she did for 25 years.

Oak Grove has been an integral part of their lives. She began as a choir director, directing a number of musicals at Oak Grove, became the coordinator of music, has sung, taught Sunday School, has been an elder twice, and has chaired Worship, Nominating, and Children's Committees. Oak Grove is family and she is so proud to say she is a member of this awesome church!!!!



An Important Mental Health Service! Did you know that if you text 741741 when you are feeling depressed, suicidal, or just needing to talk with someone, a crisis counselor will text with you? Many people do not like talking on the phone and would be more comfortable texting. **It's a free service.** (Pastor Bill tested this and found it to be legit) Copy. Paste.

Share. You never know who needs to see this. It is not weak to ask for help. Everybody needs it from time to time. Don't ever, ever be afraid or embarrassed to reach out to someone.



**Harry Lichy
and
Bill Chadwick
celebrate
ordination
anniversaries**



**Jeff Japinga,
Executive Presbyter of PTCA,
joins to celebrate ordination
anniversaries
Harry celebrates his 60th and
Bill celebrates his 40th.**