

Oak Leaves



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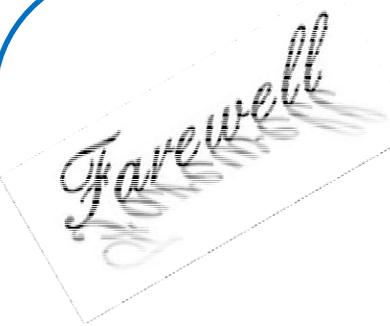
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From Pastor Bill Back Cover

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Farewell to Pastor Jermaine

Please join us for worship on Sunday, August 13, to hear Jermaine's last message to us. We will celebrate with Jermaine and Cherech to wish them farewell and good luck as they head for New York. Join us at 10:30am, after the service, for refreshments, gift, and fellowship. Feel free also to show your appreciation for his time with us with thank you cards, etc. Jermaine has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the renowned Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University and will start there in the fall. We wish him God's richest blessings as he moves into the next phase of his ministry. When he becomes a world-famous professor we can say,

"We knew him when..."

"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)

We'll provide the hot dogs and burgers. The rest is potluck — think State Fair food on a stick!

Food on a Stick



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

August 2017

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

Oak Grove Staff
 Ministers: **the 520 members**

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 Kitchen Coordinator/Cook:
Open

Communications Specialist
Rebecca Ensteness

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**
sgreimel@comcast.net

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Child Care Provider:
Lacey Jones

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

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We are delighted to officially welcome **Mary Pol** back to our staff as a Parish Associate. She served in this capacity for several years before being called back to active duty as the interim pastor in the Hope Community Presbyterian Church in Virginia, MN. Her service ended there in May. Mary is the mother of Jennifer Myers and grandmother of Natalie and Catherine.



To remind folks, a parish associate is a teaching elder (clergy) who serves in a validated ministry other than the local parish, or is a member-at-large, or is retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of teaching elder. Oak Grove is tremendously blessed to have six such persons serving as parish associates: Janet Shannon, Umo Udo, Denise Dunbar-Perkins, Bruce Ervin, Deb DeMeester and Mary Pol. They assist with prayer time at healing services, do some visitation and occasional other duties. Other than preaching or leading retreats, they serve without remuneration.

Upcoming Group and All-Church Outings

>The Caregivers' Tea and Lunch Bunch Respite are taking a vacation in August. Please watch for news for meetings in September.

>Tuesday, August 1, Noon - Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship at Zeke's. Pick up a companion who can't drive and come for comaraderie.

>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).

Upcoming Singles Event

(and anyone who would enjoy the fellowship)

**>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.
 This is an outdoor concert 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.

August 2017 Preaching Schedule

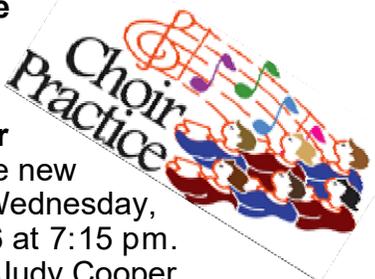
<u>Date</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
Aug 6	Elona Street-Stewart (see right)
Aug 13	Jermaine Ross Allam
Aug 20	Bill Chadwick
Aug 27	Bill Chadwick (at Moir Park)

The Worship and Music Committee is intentionally adding diversity to our guest preacher list. While Pastor Bill is on vacation, our guest preacher on August 6 will be **Elona Street-Stewart**. She is Delaware Nanticoke and 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.

Singers – Save the Date

The first **Chancel Choir** rehearsal of the new season will be Wednesday, **September 6** at 7:15 pm.

Contact Judy Cooper (jcooper@oakgrv.org or 952-888-4621) if you have questions! If you're new and want to join us, feel free to just show up — you are very welcome!



Presbyterian Women

have two study circles that meet from September until June – **Evening Star Circle** meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7 pm and Goodrich-Nord Circle meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am. Both circles meet at the church. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle, and fall is a perfect time to do so because that's when we begin our new study. This year the study is called "Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane. Please contact the circle moderators if you are interested. Evening Star's leader is Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810, and Goodrich-Nord's leader is Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577.

All Presbyterian women are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area **Fall Gathering** on Saturday, October 7 at Church of the Apostles, Burnsville, MN.

The theme for the day will be Interfaith Outreach:
Understanding our Muslim Neighbors
presented by Sadia Tarannum,
NW Islamic Center
in Minneapolis.

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 on 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.

Branching Out, featuring... – from the Multicultural Committee

Elizabeth Longrie -- comes from a Kenyan family of 10 kids. There are so many family traditions she could tell you about, but one stands out. They all grew up sleeping in one bedroom, sharing bed and bedding. It was such fun. None of them was ever alone and Elizabeth misses a lot of that today as she is away from her family. It was also traditional for all of the kids — not her parents — to eat from the same tray/plate. For instance, her mom would just put a tray of rice and whatever accompaniment for all of them to eat from. This affects her still as however hungry she finds she is, she can never eat by herself, especially at a restaurant,

Elizabeth works as a nursing assistant in a care center. Until she came to America, she never knew that having nursing homes was such a need. They don't have those in Kenya as children are supposed to take care of their parents in their sunset years; so at old age, parents retreat to the countryside instead of living in the cities. The kids are also obliged to meet their parents' financial needs as a way of giving back. Parents gave care as the kids were growing up, so now the kids take care of the parents. This gives Elizabeth a lot of joy and she does it with a lot of humility. That a child can grow up to take care of his/her parents is considered an achievement of sorts.

Every morning at 3 am, ever since Elizabeth was born, her mom has prayed. And no music except Gospel was played in the house. Elizabeth's husband Mark will attest to the fact that she hasn't broken away from that. On July 10, Elizabeth & Mark welcomed their first-born, Zawadi ("gift") Ruth! Pure blessings.

**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*).

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.



**Chain
of Lakes
Partnership**

For the past four years Oak Grove has enjoyed a partnership with the newest congregation in the presbytery, Chain of Lakes, in Blaine and their pastor, Paul Moore. They are really progressing well now and will be officially chartered this fall.

Know that we are always welcome to join them for Sunday worship at 10:30 at 10130 Davenport Street NE #160, Blaine, MN 55449. On August 20 they will be worshipping outdoors at their property and that might be an especially fun Sunday to visit: 12414 Alamo Street, Blaine 55449. They are starting to make plans now for building!

August 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+)



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Nathan Ramberg*18; Claire Diller*4;
Marsha Pridgeon; Tod Short; Jim Stanko;
Larry Teien | 14 Thomas Deters*3; Paul St. Martin |
| 2 Cecelia Laurie; Sharon Fields;
Naana Ofori-Atta | 15 Joan King; Rich Miller**90 |
| 3 Karen Gerdes | 16 Ator Cham*4; Jan Peterson**85;
Don Schneider**87; Janet Zeiszler |
| 4 Leslie Jones | 19 Diana Christopherson; Bob Sands |
| 6 Donald Wagner | 20 Finn Elbert*4; Freda Williams |
| 7 David Hansen; Jane Jacobson; Lisa Sheff | 21 Jack Glausser*11; Paige Johnson*7 |
| 8 Priscilla Cross | 24 Anna Ahlquist; Mattie Marvin**97 |
| 9 Nikki Johnson; Dick Lawson | 25 Judy Cooper; Sean Kelly; Lisa LaPointe |
| 10 Don Alman; Gordon Beattie**92;
Ann Traeder | 26 Laura Deters; Sebastian Reis*1 |
| 11 Elsie Clark**90; Don Olson | 27 Edna Lorsbach**90; Jeff Williamson |
| 12 Heather Reed | 28 Ethan Sowers*1 |
| 13 Georgia May | 29 Roger Ebeling; Greg Johnson; Nancy Kachel |
| | 30 Bob Gerdes; Shannon Hauger; Harriet Kelly*2;
Nancy Tighe |
| | 31 Milissa Carter; Laurie Decknatel;
Sam Gleason*21 |

Financials

“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!

Thanks, Condolences & Congratulations!

Thank You, Oak Grove

Book'em sales this year were the largest ever - \$143,000 in just 2 weeks! The monies will be distributed in the fall to fill the needs of qualified crime prevention requests. Thanks to all who donated and purchased items to make this such a successful year Thank you, thank you!
The Book'em Volunteers

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our marriage.
Bob & Pamara Ritter

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who sponsored me at the Lake – to – Lake Bike Tour for Clearwater Forest Scholarship Fund on June 10, 2017. Through your generous donations I was able to raise \$1,850. I look forward to your support at next year's Bike Tour. Again, I say Thank You!
Don Alman

A great big thank you to all who came to our "4th of July Pancake Breakfast"....each year we seem to outdo the year before. We collected 116 pounds of food and raised \$4658 for VEAP. We have made the people at VEAP very happy!!!! We could not do it without all those who helped with setup, cleanup, and the actual breakfast. It takes a village.....thank you !!!
Bob and Karen Gerdes

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.
Elsie Clark & family

Condolences to family and friends of:

Kwot Omot Agongo, Simon Omot's mother, died June 27 in Pochalla, South Sudan.

Walter Craigton, father of Pamara Ritter's life-long friend, died June 30.

Ron Clark died July 4.

Norma Baack, Bonnie Grussing's mother, died July 16.

Bob Haff, Bob & Karen Gerdes' brother-in-law, died July 23.

Congratulations!

Mark & Elizabeth Longrie on the birth of daughter, **Zawadi Ruth**, on July 10.

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, through August 24, 2017, 4:30-6:00 pm

Woodlake Lutheran Church, 7525 Oliver Ave S

Richfield MN 55423

612-866-8449 Woodlakechurch.org

Aug 3	<i>Grief Demystified—Part I</i>
Aug 10	<i>Grief Demystified—Part II</i>
Aug 17	<i>Wellness During Grief</i>
Aug 24	<i>Myths of Grief</i>

From Pastor Bill...

Dear Friends:

1. *The big news this month is staff transition:* We say a final and very fond farewell and thank you to Jermaine Ross Allam on Sunday, August 13. He will lead us in worship and then we will have a little reception following (*see page 1*).
2. *Resourcing of standing congregational committees.* Eugene Peterson is not only famous for writing *The Message*, the wonderful paraphrase of the Bible widely used throughout the Church (as well as 30 other books). He is famous among clergy for pastoring a Presbyterian congregation for 30 years and not going to *any* committee meetings. Seriously. At the other extreme is the controlling-type pastor (or pastor-dependent congregation) in which the pastor attends every committee meeting. Oak Grove tends to operate in the middle of these two extremes. At the June session meeting we talked about how staff can best and most efficiently use their time and how much of that should be expended on resourcing committees. The decision was that, with some exceptions, staff would generally not attend committee meetings. This is not a huge change, but a try at being a bit more intentional about it.

It was decided that chairpersons should be sure to send out the agenda a few days ahead of time (as most of you already are doing). And if the staff resource person sees something that needs his/her attention the person can either communicate ahead of time or attend the meeting. Of course, any time the chair feels the pastor's presence will be a significant help the person will make every effort to be present.

Some committees will generally require the staff person's presence. For Mary these are Children's Committee and Deacons. For Bill, Personnel and Worship & Music (and to a lesser extent, the Legacy Committee and the Gifts and Gratitude Committee (formerly Stewardship). For Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director, Youth Committee. We'll try this for a while. It feels to me like a good and faithful plan.

3. Let me tell you just a bit about my recent week of continuing education (July 6-11) at the Collegetown Institute on the campus of St. John's University. The subject was "Writing Theology for the General Reader." It was an opportunity for me to get some feedback on the book of essays I have been working on periodically (almost exclusively during sabbaticals) and some writing tips and helpful information for getting the darn thing published if I ever find time to finish it. There were 13 of us in the class, three of them already published authors and every one very gifted, some of them astonishingly brilliant writers. The seminar was facilitated by Sari Fordham, a creative writing professor, and Tom Long, a Presbyterian clergyperson and recently-retired preaching professor and author. Tom is widely known in church circles and preaches around the world. When Pastors Mary and Jermaine heard that I was going to spend a week in his presence their eyebrows shot skyward, their mouths dropped floorward and the envy was a palpable presence in the room. The facilitators and class members were very encouraging about my work and eager to see it in print. I am so very grateful for the time to attend such events. This was unique in that all expenses were paid by the Lilly Foundation, for which I am also very grateful.

Enjoy this last month of summer! (I will be on vacation through August 12.)

Blessings, Pastor Bill