



Inside this issue:

Congregational News/Events 2 - 3

Mission 4

Creative Crafters/  
PW News 5

Branching Out 4

Calendar 6-7

Faith Formation 8

Branching Out 9

Welcome Nathan 9

Birthdays 10

Financials 10

Thanks,  
Condolences,  
Congratulations 11

From the Session  
Back Cover

- Inserts (3):
- WOW Calendar
  - Woodcutting Weekend
  - Fight Hate

Dear Friends:

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As lovely as it has been, I am eager for us to get back to full programming beginning with Rally Day and the Opportunity Fair on September 10. So many great things are in the works for us this fall—from Mission opportunities, to Faith Formation, Music, Fellowship, you name it!

I am so enthused about the latest addition to our terrific staff—Nathan Hirsh, Director of Youth and Young Adults. He has really hit the ground running and I know we will all benefit from his leadership. *(See more on back cover.)*

I am also personally very excited for us to try something I've dreamed about for years. **Discipleship 101** is an ambitious program we are offering to help people get a handle on the basics. What should a good Presbyterian know as a foundation for following Jesus? We will be providing an introduction to both the Old and New Testaments, followed by some Church history, Presbyterian history, basic Presbyterian beliefs, Polity (a fancy word for church government), Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines. No previous knowledge required. No dumb questions. No one is required to read aloud. You don't need to attend every session, though regular attendance will pay good dividends.

The first module is "Intro to the First Testament" and begins Sunday mornings September 17 and 24 during the Adult Faith Formation time (9:15-10:15). Then we switch to Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:15 starting September 27 and following. I will be doing much of the facilitating, but Pastor Mary and others will be involved as well.

For the Intro to the First Testament we won't get lost in the minutiae, but we will provide you with a skeleton framework to place events and people in some historical order and trace some of the great themes of scripture.

As always, you are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors who don't have a church community to join us here at Oak Grove for worship, for Faith Formation, for Fellowship and Service events.

Faithfully, Pastor Bill

## Oak Grove Presbyterian Rain Garden



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

September 2017

**OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN**  
 2200 W. Old Shakopee Road  
 Bloomington, MN 55431  
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 (952) 888-4621 (952) 888-2523  
 E-mail: [ogpc@oakgrv.org](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org)  
 Website: [www.oakgrv.org](http://www.oakgrv.org)

**Office Hours**

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

**Oak Grove Staff**

Ministers: **the 520 members**

Pastor **Bill Chadwick**  
[bjchadwick@oakgrv.org](mailto:bjchadwick@oakgrv.org)

Assoc. Pastor

**Mary Koon**

[mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org)

Director, Youth & Young Adults

**Nathan Hirsh**

[nhirsh@oakgrv.org](mailto:nhirsh@oakgrv.org)

Director of Music:

**Judy Cooper**

[jcooper@oakgrv.org](mailto:jcooper@oakgrv.org)

Office Administrator:

**Beth Angerhofer**

[bangerhofer@oakgrv.org](mailto:bangerhofer@oakgrv.org)

Financial Secretary:

**Meghan Dooley**

[mdooley@oakgrv.org](mailto:mdooley@oakgrv.org)

Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Communications Specialist

**Rebecca Ensteness**

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**

[sgreimel@comcast.net](mailto:sgreimel@comcast.net)

Clerk of Session:

**Connie Nesbitt**

[clerkofsession@oakgrv.org](mailto:clerkofsession@oakgrv.org)

Child Care Provider:

**Lacey Jones**

Part-time Custodians: **Tim Dubis**

**MartinAlan Smith**

**Parish Associates**

**Deb DeMeester**

[DeMeesterD@aol.com](mailto:DeMeesterD@aol.com)

**Bruce Ervin**

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**Janet Shannon**

[janshannon1@comcast.net](mailto:janshannon1@comcast.net)

**Music Opportunities at Oak Grove**

**Chancel Choir** is open to anyone who loves to sing. No auditions are necessary; if possible, just let Judy Cooper (or a current choir member) know you'll be coming so we can have a folder and robe ready for you. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, beginning September 6 from 7:15 – 8:30 pm in the choir room. We sing most Sundays (September – May).

**Orchestra** is an intergenerational instrumental group ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> grade – retired music teachers. We play a few times during the year, with two or three rehearsals prior to each. Watch Oak Leaves or bulletins for announcements.

**Handbell Choir** meets on Monday evenings from 7 – 8 pm downstairs in the Community Room. Having some music reading ability is helpful. Nancy Hauser is the director; contact Nancy [nhauser@smithgendler.com](mailto:nhauser@smithgendler.com) if you're interested.

**Wellspring** is a very casual small singing group. We sing about once a month and usually rehearse the same day we sing. Talk to Judy Cooper if you're interested.

**Children** will sing during their Wednesday and Sunday meeting times. Their special appearances are a December Christmas Pageant and leadership on Messy Church Sunday in April; they will also sing in worship a few other Sundays.

Please contact Judy Cooper with questions! ([jcooper@oakgrv.org](mailto:jcooper@oakgrv.org))

**⇒ Upcoming Group and All-Church Outings**

⇒ **Aug 30 & Sep 9, Intergenerational Orchestra rehearsals** –join our intergenerational orchestra to play on Rally Sunday, September 10. Rehearsals will be Wednesday, August 30 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 am. Please contact Judy Cooper if you're able to play or if you have questions ([cooper@oakgrv.org](mailto:cooper@oakgrv.org)).

⇒ **Tuesday, Sep 5, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship** at Zeke's. Pick up a companion who can't drive and come for the camaraderie.

⇒ **Thursday, Sep 7, 2:00 pm, Caregivers' Tea and Respite Time.** We invite anyone who is caring for a loved one to come to share experiences and struggles with others who need the support. Bring your loved one for a time of fun and treats while you are meeting.

⇒ **Sep 29 - Oct 1, Woodcutting** at Clearwater Forest. (See insert)

⇒ **Saturday, Oct 21, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Defibrillator Class.** If you are interested, sign up NOW by contacting Holly Mae Dredge at 952-831-5854.

## Congregation News/Events

**Rally Sunday is September 10.** We celebrate our new program year by returning to two worship services (8:15 & 10:45 am). Join us for the Opportunity Fair (including cinnamon rolls made by our children and Sue Greimel!) that starts at 9:15. Veeda Javaid (from Presbyterian Education Board) will speak to all ages at 10:00 am. *Please let Ron Dubis ([rojiti@aol.com](mailto:rojiti@aol.com)) know if you need a table for something other than the Session committees.*

### Upcoming Singles Event

*(and mature adults who would enjoy the fellowship)*

Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068 or [sj.jacobson41@gmail.com](mailto:sj.jacobson41@gmail.com)).

>**Friday, September 15** we will tour the newly restored State Capitol. Meet at church at 10:00 am to carpool. We will stop for lunch afterward.

>**Monday, September 18**, 5:00 pm, we will meet at Zeke's. No need to sign up -- just show up for fellowship.

**Prayers Lists** are now at the Deacons' Bench table.  
Pick up one and write a note while you're there.

**Loaves & Fishes** - Oak Grove will only serve on Thursday, September 14. We will not serve on Friday, September 8.

### SAVE THE DATE----WOMENS RETREAT

January 12, 13 & 14, 2018  
*(ML King, Jr. Weekend)*

#### “NURTURING YOUR CREATIVE SOUL”

Creativity is God's gift to us.

Using our creativity is our gift back to God.

Contact Karen Gerdes with questions  
([bkgerdes@comcast.net](mailto:bkgerdes@comcast.net))

**Oak Grove Blood Drive** is September 26.

Please say yes when you are called to donate. Blood drive opens at 1:00 pm and closes at 6:00 pm. Drop-ins are welcome.

Contact Paul Schalekamp

(952-888-1836 or

[Schalekamp@aol.com](mailto:Schalekamp@aol.com))

with questions.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

One of the special offerings taken each year through the PCUSA is the Peace & Global Witness offering. This year,

we will take the offering on October 1. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice around the world. Presbyterian Mission Agency uses 50% of the offering to support ministries of peace and reconciliation, while 25% goes to the Presbytery for use by the justice and mission team. Oak Grove keeps 25% of this offering to support local peacemaking efforts. In light of the recent bombing here in Bloomington, the **Social Justice committee decided to give our portion of this offering to the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center. Give generously on October 1.** Oak Grove has a history of inviting followers of other faiths within our city to speak to us so that we may learn and explore ways to work together for the betterment of all. The Social Justice Committee hopes you will agree that our portion from this global effort is a way to fight back the effects of this horrible act.

### Sheridan Story

This past school year, OGPC participated in Sheridan Story, a food security program that provides bags of food for kids to take home from school on Fridays, so that they can arrive at school on Monday having been fed over the weekend. Oak Grove responded in its usual, most generous way, providing the funds and volunteers to deliver over 70 bags each week – a total of more than 1500 bags to Oak Grove Elementary and Indian Mounds Elementary.

Many thanks to all those who gave generously of their time and treasure. We will continue this program during the coming 2017-18 school year, and will again be looking for volunteers. Most delivery days are on Fridays, but due to the school calendar, there are several other days as well. This volunteer commitment is small. It takes about 1/2 hour to deliver the bags to the teacher's classrooms. In the near future, watch for a sign-up calendar. Contact Mary Crampton ([mary.crampton@gmail.com](mailto:mary.crampton@gmail.com)) for more information.

### A celebration in support of International Village Clinic

Oak Grove has supported IVC for several years through our Mission Committee. Now there are two opportunities for each of you to meet Dr. Abul Sarah, founder and head of the clinic. Hear from him and others who have been to the clinic about the wonderful work that is being done there. On Tuesday, September 19, help us celebrate IVC and continue our support by participating in the annual fund raiser to be held this year from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at the Airport Hilton, 3800 American Blvd. E, Bloomington. Tickets are \$75 per person. Purchase tickets at: <http://www.ivc-2017-fundraiser.eventbrite.com>. Enjoy hearty appetizers, Bollywood Dancers, and an auction.

If you would like to donate in-kind we are looking for auction items for both a silent and a live auction. Please contact Sharon Nolte, 952-884-1014 with donation items or for information about the event.

**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 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*).

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](mailto:yvonedodge@hotmail.com)  
(Oak Grove) or Dawn Baddeley [dawnrn90@comcast.net](mailto:dawnrn90@comcast.net) (PCA)

*A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.*

## 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. If you'd like to  
carpool, contact Connie at

[nesread@hotmail.com](mailto:nesread@hotmail.com)

or 612-702-0684.

**Adult Faith Formation 2017 – 2018 - LOVE GROWS HERE—begins September 17**

Love is from God. Love is of God. God is love. This year, the theme of our worship and faith formation will be love. Love for God, for all people, the earth, ourselves. Love is more than a feeling – it is an action. We show our God's love by what we do, what we say, how and where we spend our resources of time and treasure. This theme is so big, so broad, so wide that it encompasses every aspect of our lives. Each week, you will have at least 2 opportunities to join with the Oak Grove family in order to deepen your faith and expand your mind. As we learn more about God as revealed in scripture, and more about the world around us, we pray that the spirit will open our hearts to greater possibilities to share love in this place and time.

**Rally Sunday is September 10.** We return to two worship services (8:15 & 10:45). We also have an Opportunity Fair from 9:15 - 10:00 am in Gideon Pond Hall. Come learn about areas with which you can share your time and talents. At 10:00 am, Veeda Javaid will present what's happening with the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan.

**Westminster Town Hall Forum, Tuesday, September 19, at Noon**

**CARL POPE — Can We Save the Planet?** - Former executive director and chair of the Sierra Club. Veteran leader in the environmental movement. Co-author of *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet*.

Westminster's Town Hall Forum is free and open to all.  
Westminster Presbyterian Church is at Marquette Ave & 12th St., Minneapolis.  
Parking ramps are located near the church.

**Children's Ministry is gearing up for another great year!**

On Rally Sunday, September 10, we'll have activities for the children (including making cinnamon rolls with Sue Greimel) during the Opportunity Fair, and invite them to join with adults to listen to the news from Veeda Javaid and the girls' school in Pakistan.

WoW! begins on Wednesday, September 13, with dinner, followed by music and activities. Regular Sunday School begins on September 17, 9:30 – 10:30 am.

This program year, our children's curriculum for both Wednesday and Sunday is "Love in a Big World: Building Character and Hope in Kids." Through scripture, good children's literature, service and activity, we'll explore themes of love, humility, fairness, organization, responsibility and more.

Dates to remember:

**Sunday, September 10:** Children's Church begins for children 3 years – K during 10:45 worship

**Sunday, October 1:** World Communion Sunday: Waffle Breakfast (to raise money for CROP Walk) during the Faith Formation hour; **children sing in worship** with the Chancel Choir

**Sunday, October 8:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders receive Bibles (*Please let Mary know if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader!*)

Moving around so much in my childhood made family traditions that much more important. It gave us something stable to hold onto. The most stable place in my childhood was my grandparent's home in New Ulm, MN. The Alwins have been in their home for almost 60 years and they have always had an open door with a welcoming smile to greet you and food to warm your soul. Every summer, when we would visit Nanny and Poppa, we would climb 'Herman the German' tower that overlooks New Ulm, hike to Flandreau State Park swimming hole, ride on Poppa's moped, eat sauerkraut, and polka until we passed out at Heritage Fest. This Fest was as big as New Ulm's Oktober Fest and lasted two weeks in the heat of the Summer. My cousins and I would talk to the German and Austrian guest musicians in the best schmaltzy German we knew and would always request "Roll out the Barrel" as the Germans playfully rolled their eyes. It was a Fest filled with colors, food, smells, and music that will always have a special place in my heart. Over the years, Heritage Fest has slowly morphed into something unrecognizable from my childhood but I will always have those memories every time I hear polka music.

Another, slightly quirky, Alwin tradition that we have is during Thanksgiving. After eating, and eating, and passing around thirds, and making room for dessert(s), Poppa (being the nature lover he is) invites the whole family on a hike in the back yard which is Flandreau State Park; a gorgeous, thickly wooded and serene park. On this hike, we take time to reflect on our year, our family and our many blessings to be thankful for. Then, we push over dead trees. Yes, that's right, we push over tired, rotted trees that need help making it to the ground. Some trees can be done in one push by our smallest cousins, others take a group of us to knock over. In the end, we feel a little lighter both physically and emotionally. Helping the dead trees become one with the soil and create new life for next spring. Then we come back home and eat Special K bars, of course. There's nothing quite like a family gathering.

### **Welcome Nathan Hirsh!**

The Session is excited to introduce to you our new Youth and Young Adult Director, **Nathan Hirsh** (that's correct, no "c" in the last name). The Search Committee read many resumes, did phone interviews with five candidates and personal interviews with three. The choice of Nathan was a unanimous and enthusiastic one! Thanks to the committee of Russ Snyder, Leslie Jones, Christy Thorson, Derek Flanagan, Andrew Hess, Betsy Marvin (chair) and Mary Koon and Bill Chadwick, ex-officio. Lily Dodge, Freddy Alonzi, Ella Snyder and Hannah Ervin also sat in on final interviews.

Nathan began his work on August 8 and has really hit the ground running, meeting with parents, volunteers and youth. He will work 30-32 hours per week at \$21/hour.

Originally from Memphis, TN, Nathan and his family moved to Shakopee, MN in 2004. Nathan graduated from North Central University in 2014 with a degree in English Writing and a Biblical Studies minor. He has lived in Minneapolis since 2009 and worked with church plants, non-profits, and youth programs across the Twin Cities ever since. He loves rock climbing, biking, and board games (the bigger the rule book the better). If you need a good book to read and a decent hiking trail to read it on, Nathan is most definitely the guy with whom you should talk. He's passionate about engaging students' and young adults' mind, body, and soul in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and excited to start this new chapter with the youth and young adults at Oak Grove.

## September 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+)



2	Storm Holloway	17	Pat Gleason; Sida Souvannasane
3	Rick Wahtera	19	Erin Norris
4	Adonis Brandt (Adonis)	20	Beverly Bliss
5	Pierce Flanagan; Jacque Johnson	21	Larry Klueh; Katie Propsom*19
6	Barbara Hornnes; Norma Ritterspach	22	Morgen Gray; Tonya Lawrence; Michelle Tallman
7	Bob Bruder**89; Macy McKinnon*3	23	Mary Crampton; Kathryn Grussing; Eliza Schuchman*8; Larry Thronson
10	Bob Alexander; Bob Crum	24	Kenneth Hanson**97; Patsy Latourelle
11	Susan Gleason; Amelia Krentz*1	25	Don Latourelle; Betty Lou Walker
13	Jackson Marrone*16; Michael McNutt	26	Vaughn Sheff; Jennifer Steskal
14	Eric Duvall	27	Bill Cross; Judy Harder
15	Anna Benz*18; Michael Benz*18; Ross Brandt; Inez Pond**92	29	Stacy Brand; Carol Frechette; Bonnie Grussing; Jessi McKinnon; Jody Milton
16	Jack Carlson	30	Paige Arndt*5; Ruth Ann Metzger; Mike Steskal

## Financials

Through June 30	2017		Act vs Budg	2016
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
<b>Income YTD</b>	\$336,574	\$341,155	(\$4,581)	\$353,421
<b>Expense YTD</b>	\$344,918	\$387,760	\$42,842	\$336,369
<b>Income – Exp</b>	(\$8,344)	(\$46,605)	\$38,261	\$17,052

### From Your Building Operations Committee, Window Replacement Project

Because our 17-year-old windows were faulty, this summer we stained and varnished 42 windows to have them ready for installation this Fall. Spending seven mornings in July and August, we had over 30 volunteer work hours to complete the project. Because our volunteers did the work, the church saved a significant amount of money to be used for other projects.

Thank you, work crew for your time and talent. Members of the finishing crew include Don Alman, Warren Christopherson, Bob Gerdes, Al Greimel, Don Latourelle, Carol Long, Gene Morris, and Bob Sorensen.

## Thanks, Condolences & Congratulations!

### Thank You, Oak Grove

A special thank you to our Oak Grove Family again and again and again. You are there for us through the joys and the sorrows. Thank you for all the prayers and cards in this last journey for our brother-in-law, Bob Haff and for his wife, Dawn. Their family needs continued prayers as they learn a new normal. Our gratitude and love to all of you.  
*Bob and Karen Gerdes*

Thank you so much for the use of the gathering space and kitchen for our event last night. Wow! Everyone had a great time. We heard from everyone running for school board and city council in a relaxed setting. Close to 60 people showed up. About 20 people toured the Oasis for Youth space and learned about their good work. And we collected a lot of Hanes t-shirts as Nicole requested! What a great example of a true community partnership. Thank you again.  
*League of Women Voters*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and caring members of Oak Grove. The cards, treats and visits keep our spirits up. We are grateful to all of you.  
*Don & Dee Schneider*

Thank you so much for your support, kindness and prayers as you assisted our family after Betty Vance's death. Mom had a long and happy life. She was a spiritual woman and joined your church in her later years. She greatly appreciated Bev Heise who visited her so often as her Friend to Friend and we very much appreciated Betsy Marvin providing prayers and a reading at mom's funeral. It was a great comfort to us.  
*Betty Vance and Pat Vance*

### Condolences to family and friends of:

**Amy Smith**, Mary Render's sister, died August 3 in Fargo.

### Congratulations!

**Aria Brandt**, daughter of Ross & Brooke  
**Evangeline Johnson**, daughter of Arne & Jacque  
and  
**Livia May Knapp**, daughter of Ryan & Julia  
were baptized in 9-Mile Creek during worship in  
Moir Park on August 27.



**More of the beautiful  
Rain Garden**

## From the Session...

The following letter was sent after the bombing of Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center

August 8, 2017

Dear friends and neighbors of Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center,

We write to let you know that we are anguished by the bombing of your place of worship and fellowship last Saturday. We want to assure you of our prayers, our support, and solidarity in the face of this act of hatred and violence.

In this time of heightened tension, we recall the greatest commandments -- to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We extend to you our open hand of solidarity and support, and reaffirm our pledge and commitment to stand against intolerance, violence and hatred.

We hold you in prayer, yearn with you for the day when none shall be persecuted, and work for the time when all will live in God's peace and justice. We extend the hand of friendship and offer to work with you toward restoration and stronger bonds of community in any way possible. We stand with you.

Sincerely,

The Clergy, staff and Session of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

### ***And more from Pastor Bill...***

As we move into the fall we celebrate all the activities related to school and the start of the "program year" within the Church and I say "YAY!" to all of that.

At the same time I celebrate the wisdom and work and worship and wonderment and wow-ness of the older folks in the Oak Grove family.

*Kathleen Dean Moore said, Retired people often feel that, since they've worked all their lives, the world owes them a rest. That's outrageous. Old age is precisely when we need to pay the world back. Yes, we have worked hard, but our successes depended on a stable climate, temperate weather, abundant food, cheap fuel, and a sturdy government—all advantages that our children and grandchildren will not have if we don't act.*

*We elders are at the peak of our ability to help. We have a wealth of experience. Many of us have sufficient income. And we have that huge commodity: time. Most of all we have a ferocious love for our grandchildren. Wouldn't that love make us want to leave them the legacy of a beautiful world? To turn away from that into a kind of grouchy selfishness strikes me as tragic. (Interviewed by Mary De Mocker, December 2012, *The Sun*.)* And indeed so many of Oak Grove's retired folks are giving of themselves in every way to make this a more beautiful world. Sometimes people observe, "We have a LOT of old folks at Oak Grove." And I respond, "Thank heavens!" We would be an anemic shadow of ourselves without them.