

Dear Friends:

This morning I was meeting with a young pastor who wanted to pick my brain on some issues he was facing in his congregation. He is from a different denomination, we had not met before, and he had not been in our building previously. Through that conversation and the tour of the building I was once again reminded how much I had “landed in clover” (to quote Beth Hart-Andersen) to be in ministry with you. *How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.* (I know I’m missing some.)

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Back Cover:

- Branching Out
- More from Pastor Bill

Inserts (2):

- WOW Calendar
- Photos

- Your openness to new ideas
- Your welcome of folks regardless of race, orientation, age, political party, etc.
- Your work in the community, volunteering in social service and working for justice
- Commitment to mission
- The wonderful music ministry
- The Deacons, The Session, the Treasurer
- The commitment to cutting our carbon footprint
- The PW and Women’s Circles
- Cool and creative stuff in children, youth and adult faith formation
- The Men’s Mentor Group, Burger N Brew
- Annual Retreats (get them on your calendars) and Woodcutting Weekend
- Committees are working well—efficiently using time and money to move ministry forward
- We have enough money to fund ministries to which God is calling us
- Friend-to-Friend Ministry; Prayer Shawl ministry, Caregivers’ Teas and Lunch Bunch
- Clearwater Forest
- Rainbow Fellowship, Multicultural Committee
- Oasis for Youth
- Amazing staff (and your support of the staff)
- The building is so beautiful and functional and well-maintained (and paid for!)
- The Sanctuary Guild
- Community use of the building
- The Monday Morning Guys, the office volunteers, the sound board crew, ushers and all who give of their time

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

--Pastor Bill

**LOVE
GROWS
HERE**



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

October 2017

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

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
 8:30 am—5:00 pm
Friday—8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Oak Grove Staff

Ministers: **the 519 members**

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

Assoc. Pastor

Mary Koon

mkoon@oakgrv.org

Director, Youth & Young Adults

Nathan Hirsh

nhirsh@oakgrv.org

Director of Music:

Judy Cooper

jcooper@oakgrv.org

Office Administrator:

Beth Angerhofer

bangerhofer@oakgrv.org

Financial Secretary:

Meghan Dooley

mdooley@oakgrv.org

Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Communications Specialist

Rebecca Ensteness

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**

sgreimel@comcast.net

Clerk of Session:

Connie Nesbitt

clerkofsession@oakgrv.org

Child Care Provider:

Lacey Jones

Part-time Custodians: **Tim Dubis**

MartinAlan Smith

Parish Associates

Deb DeMeester

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Janet Shannon

janshannon1@comcast.net

2017 Per Capita is \$33.75

2018 Per Capita is \$34.50

THE DEACONS' BENCH – Your Deacons continue to work for you! Here are just a few of the ways we minister to our members:

Communion – We prepare the elements for communion on the first Sunday of each month and for special worship services at Oak Grove. We also serve communion at Presbyterian Homes every other month. *If you are interested in helping with any of these responsibilities, please contact Patty Nail (952-835-3563 or put a note in her mailbox).* We'd love to have your help!

Health Ministry/Grief Support/Anniversary Remembrance – We work to be intentional in praying for and remembering folks who have had a loss in the family and/or significant challenge with a health issue. We seek to recognize significant transitions in peoples' lives. *Please help the Deacons with this ministry by writing your own thoughts on cards supplied at the Deacons' Bench table in the Narthex.* We have plenty of cards to choose from, current prayer lists, and a church directory for finding the address. Simply leave the sealed, addressed envelope in the basket and the church office will attach the postage and mail it.

Prayer Shawl/Simple Meal – A small group of dedicated folks meet to make prayer shawls and/or to prepare a simple meal of soup and bread. When our staff goes out to visit the sick of body or heart, these gifts are shared. The response to this ministry has been very positive. A gift of a prepared meal and/or a shawl knitted with love is from the heart of our Christian faith.

Third Annual Golden Harvest Dinner – For Our Members Who are 80+ Years Young - Save the Date! November 5, 11:45 am for hosted by the Deacons, just after the 10:45 service. Letters of invitation will be in the mail soon to all Oak Grovers (for whom we have birthdates) who are 80 and over by the end of the year to come eat, enjoy, and be entertained and celebrated. Also, Friend to Friend pairs will be invited to join the festivities. Elders will also be present to assist Deacons in hosting this event. Watch your October bulletins for more details!

Looking Ahead—Please mark your calendar for the following:

- Oct 8** Fall Gifts and Gratitude Program Begins
- Oct 29** Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation:
First Person Visit from Martin Luther
- Nov 5** All Saints Celebration. Golden Harvest Dinner
2018 Pledge Cards Due.
- Nov 11** Coffeehouse Singing and Entertainment
- Nov 12** Recognition of Military Veterans. We invite veterans to bring in a photo of themselves in uniform prior to the service.
Chartering of Chain of Lakes Church in Blaine.
- Nov 19** Pulpit exchange with Chain of Lakes Church
- Nov 22** Thanksgiving Eve service here at Oak Grove in conjunction with
Presbyterian Church of the Apostles 6:15 PM

Congregation News/Events

Upcoming All-Church and Group Events

⇒ **Saturday, Oct 21, 8:00 am - Noon**, All church clean-up day.

⇒ **Saturday, Oct 21, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Defibrillator Class**. Spaces are still available. Sign up NOW by contacting Holly Mae Dredge at 952-831-5854.

Adult Events

Friday, Oct 6, 6:00 pm, Oak Rovers (mature adults who enjoy fellowship with others) will gather at Applebee's at Southtown for dinner and then drive a few short blocks to St. Richard's Catholic Church on 7540 Penn Ave to attend a Taizé service at 7:30. Taizé is a meditative prayer service for Christians of all faith traditions using a moving form of prayer and periods of silence. call Don Wagner 952-831-4460, if you can attend.

Mature Singles (and any mature adults who enjoy fellowship):

Friday, Oct 13, 7:30 pm we will go to the Normandale College Theatre to see *Picnic*. Ten tickets are reserved for that evening. Senior cost is \$5.00. Call Jane Jacobson 612-267-9068

Monday, Oct 16, 5:00 pm we will meet at Zeke's for dinner and fellowship. No need to call, just show up and enjoy!



Join us for our **Coffeehouse/Cabaret** on **Saturday, November 11**. We will feature Broadway music presented by soloists, small groups, full choir, and instrumentalists. Donations will support the youth mission trip to Guatemala next summer. More details will be coming later in October. Contact Judy Cooper (jcooper@oakgrv.org) with questions!

New Member Inquiry Classes

Sunday, October 8, Noon – 2:00 pm (lunch and nursery provided)

Sunday, October 15, 9:15 Meet with Session and join during second service.

For more info, contact Sandy Crum (952-888-2114 or (skcrum@centurylink.net).



- **From Judy Cooper, Music Director** — During the next 5 weeks, Jessi McKinnon and I will participate in a Community Gospel
- Music Workshop led by Robert Robinson and several other Twin Cities Gospel writers and arrangers. This group will present a Community Concert, free and open to the public, on **Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 pm**. The concert will be at First Covenant Church, 810 South 7th Street, Minneapolis. If you like gospel music, this is a great opportunity for you.

MISSION GIFT FAIR, formerly Alternative Markets, is fast approaching. December will be here before we know it. 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 will still be able to 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.

How can you help? We are putting a call out now for you crafters, woodworkers, quilters, knitters, canners, and bakers to think about what you can do to help this event's success. Make wooden children's toys, quilt, sew, paint a picture, provide a service; the list goes on and on. We want to build our inventory of wonderful auction offerings. Think about what you can contribute.

If you have ideas or suggestions to share, please contact Sharon Nolte at 952-884-1014.

Mission Celebration 2017 "Concerns of God's Heart"

Saturday, October 14, 2017 — 9 am to 1:15 pm
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

The Presbytery Mission and Witness Committee invites you to an inspiring morning of thoughtful worship, learning and interaction. This year the focus is on the mission in our congregations that reaches to the community. The goals for the celebration are EDUCATION and NETWORKING with other PTCA churches and agencies who are also concerned with these aspects of God's work in the community. After a wonderful time of worship, participants can choose to attend two workshops out of the five offered. Details are listed below for the one-hour sessions. Further descriptions are forthcoming.

Housing Instability: Hope and Help

Presenters: Sara Liegl, Interfaith Action of St. Paul's Project Home family homeless shelter;
Sue Watlov Phillips, Executive Director of MICAH, Metropolitan Council on Affordable Housing.

Radical Inclusivity: How the Cognitively Disabled Can Help the Church Grow and Thrive

Presenter: Rev. Leslie Nugent, Associate Pastor of Wayzata UCC

Detangling the Immigration Web

Presenter: An immigration lawyer for a brief tutorial 101; Panel: Community members affected by the immigration system and members of PTCA sanctuary churches who are choosing to respond.

Creation Care: Optimizing to Shift to a Low-Carbon World

Presenter: Tomie Evans, Cherokee Park United Church, and a national speaker for the Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Faith Conversations on Race Using the critical conversation model in small groups, having discussions around areas of barriers that hinder participation and relationships in the PTCA.

Numerous displays from PTCA churches and ecumenical partners will enhance the networking and education around these mission topics. Registration will be coming out soon! No cost for the celebration and a free-will lunch. Hope to see you there!!

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

No matter what your interest, bring your projects and join our friendly monthly meetings alternating between Oak Grove and the Presbyterian Church of the Apostles (PCA — 701 E. 130th St, Burnsville). On October 14 from 9:00—Noon, we will meet at PCA. It is a fun way to get to know folks from PCA & Oak Grove and to get some work done on your crafting projects. Plus, we have treats! Questions? Contact Yvonne Dodge

yvonedodge@hotmail.com (Oak Grove)
or Dawn Baddeley dawnrn90@comcast.net (PCA)
A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.



As the Weather gets cooler . . .

Do you have a neighbor, family member or friend who might benefit from home meal delivery? Meals On Wheels provides a hot, noontime meal along with a friendly visit and safety check from a volunteer. Meals are nutritionally balanced and available for short or long-term needs and are only \$4.50 each! Contact us at **952-835-1665** or at blepmn@gmail.com, or visit our website at bloomepmeals.com. In addition we are always looking for volunteer drivers!

Please join us for the **5th Annual South of the River CROP Walk** as we try to end hunger 1 step at a time! 2PM Sunday October 8 at St John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville (20165 Heath Ave).

All ages are welcome (1.1 & 4.2-mile routes), with games & treats for young and old (including homemade apple pie!!). Register online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/southoftherivermn/oakg>, or contact Sue Greimel (sgreimel@comcast.net; 612-805-2896).

If you can't walk this year, please consider supporting us with prayers and gifts!! Food donations will be distributed to three local food shelves serving south of the river communities (360 Communities, The Open Door, and the CAP Agency).

Presbyterian Women (PW) have two study circles that meet from September to June – **Evening Star Circle** meets Tuesday evening, October 3 at 7 pm (contact Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810); and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** meets Wednesday, October 11 at 9 am (contact Joan Stanko, (952-888-7577)). Both circles meet at the church. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle.

BAKE SALE Fundraiser for PW Mission Projects will be Sunday, October 29, between services. Please help by donating baked goods -- homemade or store-bought. Bring your donations to the church between the hours of 12 - 3:00 pm Friday, October 27 or 12 - 1:00 pm Saturday the 28th. Please mark your donations with content (we especially need to know if they have peanuts!) and package them ready to sell (e.g. several cookies on a plate or wrapped bread loaves). We will price them and label them. Then come and buy treats on Sunday, October 29 between services.

Adult Faith Formation 2017 – 2018 - LOVE GROWS HERE

Love is from God. Love is of God. God is love. 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.

Sundays in October

- Oct 1 Waffle/International Breakfast
- Oct 8 Supportive Housing: SafeNights with Jim Koon
- Oct 15 Oak Grove & the Paris Accord with the Green Team
- Oct 22 Reformation Sunday lesson
- Oct 29 The Reformation

Wednesdays in October continue the Discipleship 101 series. (NO WoW! on October 18.)

The Children's Ministry curriculum this year 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, 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: 3rd Graders receive Bibles (**Please let Mary know if you have a 3rd grader!**)

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)

Westminster Town Hall Forum,
Tuesday, October 24, at Noon

Politics, Governing, and the Law

Ari Melber — Chief legal correspondent for MSNBC, covering the U. S. Supreme Court, Justice Department, and FBI. Host of the political news program The Beat. A graduate of Cornell Law School.

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.

TECH CORNER Have you ever wanted to watch the Sunday morning service while out of town? Ever missed a service and wanted to see it at a later time? The Technology Committee is excited to say that we are pursuing a strategy to stream the Oak Grove Sunday morning service on Facebook (FB)!

Many churches now use FB Live to stream and record content for hosting on their Facebook page, allowing anyone with internet access to quickly and easily worship from anywhere. Nathan and the Social Media Committee are partnering with the Tech team to determine exactly which portions of the service to stream.

We're acquiring the equipment, and hope to begin streaming Sunday morning services by the new year. Take a moment to explore the Oak Grove FB page — the Sunday service will appear there soon.



Adopt a Garden — There are two garden areas at Oak Grove that need a caretaker and neither of them takes much time. We will be adding mulch in the spring that helps with maintenance.

Area-1 is the low shrub area in front of the church. No need to prune the shrubs, just watch for an occasional weed to pop up. This would take only about one hour of your time for the whole year. **Area-2** is the eastern section of the median in front of the church and a small area near the sidewalk shrubs. No pruning is required and adopting this area would take only three hours of your time for the year. No work is necessary this fall. Just leave your weeder in your car and tend to your area after church. If you can help, please contact Jane Horn at 952-447-3061 or oyjane2@gmail.com.

News from the September 12 Presbytery Meeting

Eden Prairie Church issue going to the US Supreme Court: The Administrative Commission responding to the attempt of the Eden Prairie Presbyterian Church to withdraw unilaterally from the Presbytery reported on its work. The Commission's request for review by the Minnesota Supreme Court was not accepted, leading the Commission to request review by the U.S. Supreme Court of the religious freedom issues this case raises. A national law firm has offered to prepare this case on a pro bono basis, minimizing costs to the Presbytery itself.

Our sister congregation, Chain of Lakes Presbyterian in Blaine, to be "chartered" November 12. Continuing an evening of major steps in ministry and mission, Presbytery voted to approve the organization of Chain of Lakes New Church Development as a congregation of this Presbytery. An Administrative Commission will be appointed to arrange an organizing celebration on Sunday, November 12. Paul Moore, the organizing pastor, will be called and installed as pastor of this new congregation. Whoo-hoo! More info will be in the November Oak Leaves.



In 2007, voters approved the current Bloomington Public Schools operating referendum, set to expire in 2018. This November, Bloomington voters will be asked to approve a replacement referendum to keep pace with rising costs. If approved, the referendum will generate an additional \$465 per student. Local funding is an essential part of the operating budget, allowing the district to

invest in what the community values: attracting and keeping the best teachers and staff, remaining competitive with our neighboring districts, and developing academic and innovative programs to support students at all levels. Early voting at city hall is available after September 22. Learn more at: <https://departments.bloomington.k12.mn.us/node/3131616>.

If you have additional questions, connect with Karyn Arazi, karynarazi@aol.com.

A new addition to the Alonzi family this year is Sami Lamarti, an 18-year-old exchange student from Brussels, Belgium. He loves basketball and hopes to play for the Jefferson team this winter. Like Freddy, he has two older sisters. Sami also loves music and plays the guitar. He loves to travel, so he's hoping he'll get a few trips in while he's staying with the Alonzis. Sami is very friendly and out-going, so don't hesitate to stop and introduce yourself. We're very excited for the year ahead!

October 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 Christy Thorson
- 2 Amy Pittenger; Karen Rysavy
- 3 Mac Davis
- 5 Peggy Harsh
- 6 Lee Jaeger**89
- 7 Gordon DeLaHunt; Julia Knapp
- 8 Andy St. Martin
- 9 Doris Ebeling
- 10 Kae McQueen; Pam Williams
- 11 Lynda Mielke
- 12 Mike Arazi; Harper Krentz*4; Nuella Parker*9
- 15 Janet Pine
- 16 Paul Sowers; Lori Wasko
- 18 Ron Cavanaugh; Jeff Olson; Marleen Singhrai
- 19 Carol McCarthy; Ngadhe Philip*10
- 20 Arla Giddings**88; Kathy Scotting; Candy Williamson
- 21 Tim Dubis; Julian Wenz*13
- 22 Chris Diller; Ulysses Thomas*2
- 23 Bev Chadwick; Eric Tighe
- 24 Ty Flanagan*14; Van Vanatta**93
- 25 Catherine Myers*7
- 26 Patricia Knapp; Evelyn Melum**98; Judy Moynihan
- 27 Doodee Backstrom; Susan Baumgartner
- 28 Helen Christensen**85; Bev Noble; Crystal Winkelman
- 31 Howard Baumgartner**90



2017-18 WoW! Begins!



WoW! Kitchen Crew

Financials

submitted by Treasurer, Sue Greimel

| Through August 31 | 2017 | | Act vs Budg Fav/(Unfav) | 2016 Actuals |
|----------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Actuals | Budget | | |
| Income YTD | \$437,582 | \$453,514 | (\$15,932) | \$452,036 |
| Expense YTD | \$458,901 | \$508,557 | \$49,656 | \$438,966 |
| Income – Exp | (\$21,319) | (\$55,043) | \$33,724 | \$13,070 |

Thanks, Condolences & Congratulations!

Thank You, Oak Grove

Thank you to the pastors, deacons and all my dear friends at Oak Grove for their kindness and support at the death of my husband, Bill.
Pat Boehne

Thank you to the Oak Grove congregation for your prayers, phone calls, food and visits during the days before and following my knee surgery. You're the best!
Priscilla Pearson

Many thanks to all at Oak Grove for the prayers, thoughts, cards, emails, etc. before & after my melanoma surgery. Hopefully it is all gone now, but will have another PET scan in October. Love to a wonderful congregation & staff.
LeRoy Horn

Dear Oak Grove Friends, thank you for caring so much about us after the death of our dear brother-in-law. And thank you for praying for Jeanie's recovery. She's been a miracle. With appreciation,
Kris Jacobson and Bill Chadwick

Thanks to those who gave memorial gifts for our grandson, Sam. A bench in his memory is now at the Minnesota Zoo. It is located on the Northern Trail, across from the carousel and near the barn. Thanks so much for making this possible.
The Beattie family

Thanks for your expressions of sympathy and support with the passing of my fabulous mother. I especially want to thank Mary Koon for organizing the very special Celebration of Life service and graveside service in our home town of Mapleton and to Beth Angerhofer for compiling the beautiful bulletin that went with the service. It was a wonderful tribute to my Mom. We Grussings will be forever grateful. She loved coming to Oak Grove and knew many people here. THANK YOU!
Bonnie Grussing

Thank you to the group from Oak for volunteering with VEAP on June 7. Collectively, your team worked 30 hours of service in the Warehouse, ensuring that families have plenty of fresh produce this spring and summer. Spring/summer is the busiest time of year, so without groups to assist in processing food, VEAP would have a difficult time providing basic needs to our neighbors. Oak Grove is an important partner of VEAP's and we are thankful for your support. Your commitment to community allows VEAP to continue to provide access to healthy foods, social services to those in crisis, and children's programs for families. Together we are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

Kial Nelson, VEAP Advancement Associate

Condolences to family and friends of:

Connie Dahl, friend of Susan Skovran & Karen Amato, died September 6.

Bill Boehne died September 11.

Congratulations!

Nora Kelly, daughter of Sean & Elise, on her baptism on October 8 at Oak Grove.

Andy St. Martin & Rebekah Campbell on their wedding, Friday, October 13 in Wisconsin.

Grief Support Coalition

Thursdays, thru November 16, 2017,
4:30-6:00 p.m.

St. Edward's Catholic Church,
9401 Nesbitt Ave. S., Bloomington MN
952-835-7101 Stedwardschurch.org

- Oct 5 *Why Do I Feel Like I'm Going Crazy?*
- Oct 12 *The Mind, Body Connection*
- Oct 19 *Coping With Grief During the Holidays*
- Oct 26 *The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help on the Path to Healing*

Branching Out, featuring Linda Karlen Johnson

– from the Multicultural Committee

I have never had my DNA checked but I grew up being told that I am three-quarters Swiss. My maternal grandfather's parents and my paternal grandparents emigrated from Switzerland (German speaking area). The remaining one-fourth is a mix of English and French.

The farming area in southern Minnesota where I grew up was settled by many Swiss immigrants. The church I attended as a child and young adult was Zwingli United Church of Christ in Berne (as in Bern, Switzerland), Minnesota.

For many years, the church put on a festival to honor their Swiss heritage. It started out with just a church supper featuring Swiss/German foods and grew from there to hosting to several thousand people on the church grounds. Much of the entertainment was local for many years – bands, folk dancing, bell ringing, flag throwing, stone throwing, yodeling and Alphorn (alpine horn) . In later years, some of the main entertainment was brought up from New Glarus, WI and from Switzerland. After 50+ years the festival was stopped due to loss of the older members who started the festival and younger members who were left being stretched to their limit.

My whole family was involved in the festival. My dad, Jacob, was in charge of the cheese shop. My mom, Dorothy, was the costume seamstress (people from Switzerland always commented that the costumes were very authentic). All her designs came from a book written in German but had beautiful pictures of the costumes. My brothers, Paul, Russel and Dennis, all took part in various activities. My youngest brother, Dennis, is still a member of the church. I took part in the band, dancing and playing the Alphorn.

Footnote: the church currently has 2 pizza ovens and hosts pizza and entertainment on Wednesday evenings from June through August. The proceeds help support the church and several other community charities. On the first Wednesday in August, they do a Swiss night featuring the flag throwers and the Alphorns. If you want to make a road trip (only a little over 1-hour drive) some Wednesday evening next summer, just Google "Berne Wood Fired Pizza" for more information.



I, Pastor Bill was looking back at some of my notes from the **Next Church Conference** this past spring that Milissa Carter, Marsha Pridgeon, Mary Koon and I attended. I shared this with the session already, but thought it would be worthwhile for all of you to read. Here are my notes from one of the keynote speakers. The Reverend Doctor Soong-Chan Rah is the founder of a multicultural congregation and is currently a professor at North Park University. He is the author of *Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church* and *The Next Evangelicalism*.

The essence of his very helpful and entertaining talk was the astonishing rate at which America is becoming more diverse and how well the Church is doing except the white mainline and evangelical churches. The Asian, black, Latino churches are all doing well.

*The Changing Face of Christianity: In 1950 the typical Christian was a white upper middle class male in an American suburb. **The typical Christian in 2017 is a teenage Nigerian peasant woman.** In 1900, 83% of Christians were white. By 2050, 71% will be non-white.*

*The history of Western Christianity: For 500 years Christianity was European/ North American. European culture was infused with Christianity. Doctrine of Discovery: "We are the true image-bearers of God so we can treat the non-Europeans any way we want." Take people into slavery, steal the land from the inhabitants. In 2011 half of US births were minorities. Somewhere between 2042-2050 the US "minority" population will be more than 50%. **The browning of America is not due to immigration, but birth rates. "We are already a diverse nation. Let's deal with it."** 91% of US whites do not have any significant relationships with non-white people. Virtually every non-white has lots of white friends. Every non-white has 5-10 white mentors. Most whites do not have any non-white mentors.*

No other institution is as non-diverse as the Church in the US. The Church is not dying, just the white American church. God has sent the immigrant community as spiritual reinforcements.

I find this extremely thought provoking and challenging as Oak Grove continues to try to be a faithful and intentionally multicultural congregation. I'm so excited about how far we have come, and even more excited to embrace the future into which God is leading us!

--Pastor Bill