



Inside this issue:

Congregational News/Events 2 – 3

Mission 4

Oak Grove & Community 5

Calendar 6-7

Faith Formation 8

HVAC Info 9

Birthdays 10

Thanks, Condolences Congrats Grief Coalition 11

Back Cover: Greetings from Pastor Jermaine

Photos throughout

Insert: WOW Calendar

Deadline for the February 2018 Oak Leaves is **January 15** - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

January 2018

Dear Friends:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

As I write this it is about two months since my shoulder surgery. I have been extremely disciplined about doing my exercises twice (or thrice) each day, never missing a day. I’ve kind of surprised myself. I wish I were more disciplined in other areas of my life.

As we look into a new year, let me offer some of the 22 questions which the members of John Wesley’s (founder of Methodism) Holy Club asked themselves every day in their private devotions over 200 years ago.

1. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
2. Can I be trusted?
3. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
4. Did the Bible live in me today?
5. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
6. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
7. Do I pray about the money I spend?
8. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
9. Do I disobey God in anything?
10. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
11. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
12. How do I spend my spare time?
13. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

Some of these are really hard. We can’t do it on our own power, but the Spirit of Christ is always ready to empower us when we ask.

Praying for a holy and blessed and joyous 2018 for each of us.

Faithfully,

Pastor Bill

Zawadi Ruth Longrie’s Baptism on December 10, 2017



OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN
2200 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
Phone **Fax**
(952) 888-4621 (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 502 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**

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

DeMeesterD@aol.com

Bruce Ervin

bruervin@aol.com

Denise Dunbar-Perkins

chaplain0406@gmail.com

Mary Pol

marypol@aol.com

Umo Udo

umo.udo@leaderoptions.com

Janet Shannon

janshannon1@comcast.net

Upcoming Group Events

Tuesday, Jan 2, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship at Zeke's.
Bring someone who is not able to drive and share in fellowship with others.
No need to RSVP!

Thursday, Jan 4, 2:00 pm, Caregivers' Tea and Respite Care — for all caregivers and their loved one(s) to share experiences and have a small time of respite.

Monday, Jan 15, 5:00 pm, Mature Singles (*and any mature adults who enjoy fellowship*) will meet at Zeke's for dinner and fellowship. No need to call, just show up and enjoy!

Thursday, Jan 18, 11:00 am, Lunch Bunch Respite Care. Bring your loved one and give yourself a little break to run errands or enjoy coffee with a friend.

Presbyterian Women (PW) have two study circles that meet from September to June.
Evening Star Circle (contact Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810) meets Tuesday evening, Jan 9 (*note that this is a change from the normal 1st Tuesday*) at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577) meets Wednesday, Jan 10 at 9 am for Bible study and fellowship. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle.

Next Coordinating Team Meeting will be Monday, January 8, at 1:30 pm at the church. All women who are members of the church are welcome to attend.



The Presbyterian Women's sponsored Knit Tree was outstanding thanks to our very generous congregation! Oasis received many hats, scarves and mittens/gloves for their clients. In all, we have donated 85 – 100 items for Cornerstone and Oasis for Youth.
Thank you from the Oak Grove Presbyterian Women.

2017 Per Capita is \$33.75
2018 Per Capita is \$34.50



If you enjoy singing but can't make a full year commitment, try one of these!

On Sunday, January 14, the Tenor and Bass sections will be singing in worship while many of the women attend their retreat. We'd like to invite anyone whose voice fits the tenor/bass range to join in singing with this group. There will be 3 rehearsals: Wednesday, Jan 3 from **6:30 – 7:00 pm**, Sunday, Jan 7 between services at 9:45 – 10:15 am and Wednesday, Jan 10 from 6:45 – 7:15 pm.

Soprano/Alto voices will be singing Sunday, Feb 4, when the men are on retreat. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, Jan 24 & 31 from 6:45 – 7:15 pm and on Sunday, Jan 28 from 9:45 – 10:15 am.

The rehearsals will be in the choir room. Contact Judy if you have questions! (jcooper@oakgrv.org or (952-250-9226)).

On Sunday, January 21, our Chancel Choir will join voices with the choir from St. Luke's Lutheran (just a few blocks east on Old Shakopee Rd.) to sing at both churches at morning worship services. We'll sing at their 8:30 service and at our 10:45 service. Over the past 6 years we've enjoyed many opportunities to join with their choir and director, Tawny Homesley, for concerts and Sunday morning services.

MARCH MUSICAL COMING!!!

Save the dates of March 17 – 18 for performances; Intergenerational event

Speaking, solo, group singing, instrumentalists; Songs and stories about people from the Bible

Stay tuned for further details. Contact is Judy Cooper (jcooper@oakgrv.org; 952-250-9226)

Please note that Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 3.

New Member Inquiry class

January 7 Noon – 2:00 pm (lunch and nursery provided)

January 14 9:15 meet with Session and join during second service.

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

DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?**DO YOU CARE ABOUT EQUITABLE TAXES? DO YOU CARE ABOUT HEALTH CARE?****DO YOU CARE ABOUT ADEQUATE SAFETY REGULATIONS?**

Of course you do. These are all “Jesus values.” Underlying these and virtually every justice issue out there is how campaigns are financed. The Move to Amend process is an entirely non-partisan movement which will overturn Citizens United, help get money out of politics, and restore democracy in the US. As State Senator John Marty stated, “There is no more important issue.” Learn ways you can participate in this critical movement at a one-hour luncheon meeting at noon on Wednesday, January 31, at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, 500 Cedar St. This is a follow-up to the resolution originating with the Oak Grove session and passed at the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area in November. Questions, contact Al or Carol Frechette (frech001@iphouse.com) or Pastor Bill (bchadwick@oakgrv.org).

*Prayer Shawl**Ministry*

Now is a great time for you to consider joining this ministry of helping provide tangible support for someone. The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Oak Grove is always looking for people who are able to follow a simple knitting or crocheting pattern. Creators gather on the 4th Tuesday of each month for fellowship and to knit or crochet the shawls. The Board of Deacons provides the yarn and some people take three skeins home and do their work there. Finished shawls are kept at the church to be given to those in need of our prayers.

We'd love for you to join this wonderful ministry of support. Contact Nancy Kachel with questions (952-884-1895).



Upcoming Retreats

WOMENS RETREAT

“Nurturing Your Creative Soul”

January 12 - 14
at Clearwater Forest

(opt xtra day Jan 15)
\$120 – (scholarships available)

Register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N26N86R>

Contact Karen Gerdes
(bkgerdes@comcast.net) or
Mary Koon (mkoon@oakgrv.org)

MEN'S RETREAT

Feb 2 - 4 at Clearwater Forest. Come join us as we explore the theme, “Masculine Identity.” We are excited to have Nathan Hirsh, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries to lead our discussions. We are again inviting men from Chain of Lakes and Church of the Apostles to join us for the retreat. Sign-ups will happen on Sundays in January in the church narthex starting January 7. The cost will be \$120 and scholarships are available. We especially invite any men who have not attended before **(and yes, the retreat ends in plenty of time to get back for the Super Bowl!)**. Plan now to attend! Send questions to **Stephen Jones** (stephenfj2002@yahoo.com) or **Warren Christopherson** (wchris25@hotmail.com) or call Warren Christopherson at 952-873-9952.

INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT

March 2 - 4, 2018
Clearwater Forest

Relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages. The event begins Friday evening and ends Sunday morning. Signups begin in February. Contact Larry and Priscilla Pearson with any questions (952-835-9480).



Some of Our Congregations' Shared Crèches



Adult Faith Formation 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. The first month of the new year will focus on our lives, inside and out. We'll explore mental illness, body-image, racism and will use our bodies in dance.

Sundays in January

January 7: Suicide Prevention and Awareness with Dr. Karl Olson from the University of MN.

January 14: On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we'll read some of his work and discuss his ideas and impact on our world.

January 21: Author, Healing Touch Practitioner and Oak Grove member, Jacque Fletcher Johnson will lead a session on "Being Kind to Your Body."

January 28: Salsa lessons!

Wednesdays in January we continue the Discipleship 101 series with Pastor Bill.

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.

The Children's Ministry Team is SO grateful for the many ways the children participated throughout the Advent season. Thanks to all who led our children in singing, baking, creating and sharing Christ's love this Advent!

Sunday School begins again on Sunday, January 7, 9:30 am

WoW! begins on Wednesday, January 10!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Saturday, January 20, 4:30 – 6:30 Feed My Starving Children – ALL ages (5 years and up) are encouraged to join us!

Friday, February 9: Family Fun Night and Talent Show – Again, this is INTERGENERATIONAL! Come and eat dinner and share your talent with the Oak Grove family.



**2017
Children's
Christmas
Pageant**



More from Pastor Bill

Dear Friends,

Fantastic News to Share! You have heard some of this in bits and pieces, but here is a synopsis of our recent replacement of our HVAC (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning) units. A few months ago, our Green Committee hired an energy expert to examine our current HVAC units (17 years old) to see how much energy and money we could save with new models. It was discovered that 4 of the 8 units weren't operating correctly due to lack of intake air! The Men's Monday Morning Work Crew is quickly finding a way to increase the intake air due to the Altemp technician's recommendation. Working together, the Green Committee and the Building and Operations Committee received several bids for 8 new units. It was decided to go with ultra-high efficiency models, which together cost \$101,000, minus \$15,000 in energy savings rebates. We are extremely fortunate to have a special Building and Repair Fund to pay for these, because recently a member of the church anonymously gave Oak Grove \$190,000 for this fund.

The largest 5 of these HVAC units are 41-51% more efficient than our previous units, and together our 8 new units will save \$30,000 in energy costs over their 15-year life expectancy, as well as reducing our CO output by a tremendous amount.

So, THANK YOU to our anonymous donor, to the Building and Ops Committee, especially Warren Christopherson and Bob Gerdes, and to the Green Committee. We are so very blessed in so many ways.

And ultimately we give thanks and praise to God, our Creator, who has entrusted care of the planet to us human beings.

Looking ahead: The Green Committee has continued to investigate solar options. (Twice we applied for the state solar rebate and neither time did we win that lottery.) Then we — mostly John Crampton — researched solar gardens, only to find that they won't let churches subscribe. (Companies don't like to sue churches, in case they back out of their 25-year subscription.) So, back to the drawing board. A new plan to put solar panels on our roof has been formulated and is making its way through our committee structure.

I am so proud of Oak Grove for so many reasons, and your commitment to care of the earth is one of the chief ones.

Blessings as we enter the new year!

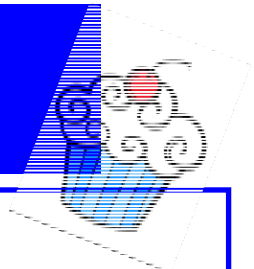
Bill



January 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 Matthew Carter*11 | 16 Pat West |
| 2 Caroline Delano; Paulette Jacobson | 17 Anne Klueh |
| 3 Barbara Bruder**85; Nicole Jacobson*14;
Jean McCarl**85; Cory Paape;
Det Souvannasane | 19 Susan Bachman; Mark Erickson; Jim Reineke |
| 4 Lily Dodge*14; Hannah Jones*11 | 20 Mary Jones |
| 5 Carrie Wilkens; Brian Boakye-Ansah*15 | 21 Alan Eiler**86 |
| 6 Eugene Orr; Karen Amato; Joan Ulwelling;
Beth Angerhofer | 22 Chidera Esele; Rick Render; Tatum Gillies*11 |
| 8 Jen Dahlberg**95; Wally Neal**90;
Zachary Paape*16; Mary Tolvstad | 23 Roger Hornnes; Dee Schneider**89 |
| 9 Merrick Anderson; Gordy Augustson**90;
Allan Carter*9; Sue Kim; Alix Montcho;
Julia Steskal*9 | 24 Dale Copeland; Adam Decknatel;
Angelo Cantu*8; Brandon McKinnon;
Karna Mikkelson |
| 10 Susan Beelman; Vi Knutson**87;
Trevor Reis | 25 John Crampton |
| 13 Bobby Traeder*16; Chloe Traeder*16 | 26 Karen Alonzi; Leslie Davis; Jim Knutson;
Sharon Solomon |
| 14 Nathan Reed*18 | 27 Iris Karow; Maggie Snyder*20; Paula Uvodich |
| 15 Lisa Pomroy; Bill Pomroy; Bob Worthington | 28 Brooke Brandt; Morgan Duvall*15; Terry Nesbitt;
Rita Raley; Susan Skovran; Gracie Thomas*6 |
| | 29 Faith Grondin**89; Cece Klueh |
| | 30 Jim Furber; Josh Pearson |
| | 31 Margaret Koch; Tim Taylor |



More Crèches



Blood Drive at Oak Grove, January 23

Please say yes when you are called to donate. Blood drive opens at 1:00 pm and closes at 7:00 pm.

Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Paul Schalekamp (952-888-1836 or Schalekamp@aol.com) with questions.

Thanks, Condolences, Congratulations!

Thank You, Oak Grove

Dear friends at Oak Grove, thank you for your cards and words of comfort when you heard the news that I lost my daughter, Linda. Your concern means the world to me. Much love,
Carol Bayert

Just wanted to extend a great big thank you to all our friends in Christ at OGPC. Your beautiful and touching get well cards kept pouring in; your uplifting texts and e-mails were nourishing for the soul; a few home visits (one including communion) were nurturing and special; and visits in the hospital and at Presbyterian Homes from both Pastors Bill and Mary meant the world to me/us! We are so very blessed!
 Hugs & "Candy" Kisses.
The Almans

A great big thank you to all who sent me get-well greetings before and after my surgery. The prayers helped me to recuperate quickly so I am doing very well and almost back to normal!
Margaret Comstock

Condolences to family and friends of:

Eleanor Augustin, Karen Rysavy's mother, died November 11.

Linda Adler, Carol Bayert's daughter, died November 26.

Samuel Esele, Ignatius' brother in Nigeria, died November 26.

Lynn, Ann Traeder's best friend, died December 3.

Jack Powers, Sue's husband, died December 20. His memorial service will be at Oak Grove on Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am at the church.

Congratulations On Your Retirement and Faithful Service!

Denise Dunbar, who serves as one of our parish associates, retired after 14 years as Staff Chaplain at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital.

Deacon **Patty Nail** recently re-retired. Patty was the first female police officer in Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1977. She has served the last 36 years with the Hennepin County Sheriff's office, the last 10 as a part-time officer in the handgun permit department.

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition
 Thursdays, Jan 4, 2018 – Feb 22, 2018, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
 Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Ave S.
 Bloomington MN. 952-881-8600

Date	Topic
Jan 4	Happy New Year
Jan 11	Transforming Grief
Jan 18	What's Left?
Jan 25	Habits of Resilience for Grievors
Feb 1	This Puzzle Called Grief
Feb 8	Grief and Intimacy
Feb 15	Grief and Family Systems
Feb 22	Strategies for Getting Unstuck

From Pastor Jermaine. . .

Greetings Oak Grove!

Can you believe that an entire semester has passed? It seems as if only a few weeks have gone by since we said goodbye at the wonderful send off you gave Cherech and me. I still remember all of the smiles, hugs, written and spoken words of encouragement, and generous gifts from so many of you.

Each of you remain close to my heart even as I am writing the last few pages of final papers before winter break.

This semester has been a whirlwind with each week flying by like a long weekend. I enjoyed all of my courses this semester and learned a tremendous amount. My advisor Gary Dorrien is extremely supportive and encouraging as well as a brilliant teacher. Studying justice and the world order with him this semester has expanded my understanding of the global and local ethical issues related to the most recent financial crash and made me aware of the tacit bi-partisan agreement in place since the Clinton era to quietly foreclose on the possibility of economic democracy in exchange for mere cultural and civic inclusion. I still have a lot of thinking to do in this area and I am glad to have gotten a strong start.

Also, from professor Dorrien, I cannot recommend his upcoming book, *Breaking White Supremacy: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Social Gospel*, highly enough. It is not available until January but I was privileged to study key chapters with him this semester and it is well worth sustained attention. Unfortunately, my schedule did not permit time to study with Michelle Alexander this semester. When I had a chance to meet her, however, I told her that *The New Jim Crow* sparked a rich conversation at Oak Grove to which she smiled and said, "Thank you, that's what I was hoping for." I decided to get out of my comfort zone a bit and take a seminar called "Necropolitics" in the anthropology department at Columbia University this semester. The professor was enthusiastic to have an underrepresented perspective present and I believe that we were both pleasantly surprised. The course has given me new tools to consider the ways in which global finance, two-party politics, commercial media, and high-tech weapons determine the role death has come to play in our social and ethical imaginations.

I wish I could tell you that I have gotten to know Manhattan well, but that is not necessarily the case with both of us studying. Cherech is putting in serious hours in preparation to complete the four CPA exams in the next year. Days go by so fast that by the time we have a minute to leave the library we usually take the time to collapse on the sofa and catch up on a TV show or enjoy a long walk along the Hudson or down Broadway. Cherech appreciates walking more than I do. Maybe I should call it urban hiking. She wanted me to let all of you know that she finds walking around the city thrilling because of the variety of spoken languages and the endless human diversity at every corner. I have especially loved getting acquainted with The Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Both of us anticipate exploring the city during the summer break.

It has been a long time since I have checked my civilian email. The demands of the day are such that I tend to narrow my attention as much as possible in order to stay focused. Beginning next week I will have a month with no deadlines or classes to attend. Cherech and I will take a trip and I look forward to being in touch and saying hello then.

Thank you all so much for your thoughts and all of your prayers. We are blessed by you and we continue to pray for you, your ministries, and your public witness.

Much love until next time,

Jermaine Ross-Allam