

LOVING GOD...

CHANGING LIVES

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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

February 2018

Dear Friends:

This is to give you a heads-up that I will be out of the office a few weeks over the next two months. The session has approved my use of accrued continuing education time to focus on writing my book. As most of you know, I have been working in fits and starts for many years on a book of essays. These essays are generally brief, theological and humorous (I hope). You have heard a number of them as sermons and as material for retreats.

When I was on sabbatical in 2015, I had three foci: learn more about how to be a multicultural church, general reading, and working on the book. When I returned, I made an extensive report of my time in all three areas. The *only* verbal responses I received from the congregation were a number of eager questions: “Did you finish the book?!” followed by looks of disappointment when I said, “No. I worked on it, but it has quite a ways to go.” In hindsight, I wish I had focused simply on the book.

This past summer I spent a week at the Collegeville Institute working on the book. I received strong encouragement as to both the quality of the work and its usefulness to the wider church. Recently I have engaged an amazing new writing coach and I am eager to “get ‘er done.” Many senior pastors have a few weeks per year of writing time built into their regular work schedule. That would be wonderful, but I am happy to use continuing education time. I have four weeks of continuing education accrued as of this past November. (I get two weeks/year, cumulative to six weeks.)

The Personnel Committee and Session recently approved my taking 3-4 weeks of concentrated time to work on this during this winter. (I would normally do this in the summer, but Mary Koon will be on sabbatical then.) Therefore, I will be out of the office February 7-20 and March 3-10 to focus on my writing. My plan is to write in the morning and read in the afternoon, since I can’t write all day, nor read all day. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and, of course, things will be in the highly capable hands of Mary, Nathan, elders, deacons and all of you. Thanks!

Bill

Healing Touch Ministry

As part of our spiritual care ministry, Oak Grove will offer Healing Touch sessions on the 4th Thursday of each month, beginning Thursday, January 25. One-hour sessions will start at 3 pm and end at 8 pm. We believe that Healing Touch is part of a holistic model of care and are excited for this new opportunity! For info or to schedule your time, contact the church office (ogpc@oakgrv.org; 952-888-4621).

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN
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 Bloomington, MN 55431
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 (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

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Mary Koon
mkoon@oakgrv.org

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Nathan Hirsh
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Director of Music:
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2018 Per Capita is \$34.50

Lenten Wednesdays

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, and proceeding each Wednesday through March 21, we will offer quiet worship, beginning at 6:30 pm and concluding no later than 7:15 pm. We will use *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, as foundation for the homily time.

Looking ahead: During Holy Week there will be no Wednesday worship, but join us for both Maundy Thursday, March 29, 6:00 pm, and Good Friday (Tenebrae), March 30, 8:00 pm.

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, Feb 6 at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Joan Stanko, (952-888-7577) meets Wednesday, Feb 14 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, March 5, at 1:30 pm at the church. All women who are members of the church are welcome

Vote for Your Favorite Hymns During Lent Madness!

On Sunday, February 18, voting begins in Oak Grove's Lent Madness Hymn Tournament. The Worship & Music Committee has seeded tournament brackets with 64 hymns in four Divisions: PETER, PAUL, MARY, and JUDITH.



Weekly bracket ballots will be included in the bulletins during Lent, with the final Champion Hymn announced and sung on Easter Sunday. Note: must be present at church to vote each Sunday. Stay tuned for further details and updates on Oak Grove's website!

Upcoming Group Events

- Thursday, Feb 1, 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.
- Tuesday, Feb 6, 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!
- Monday, Feb 12, 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, Feb 15, 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.
- Friday, Feb 23, 7:30 pm Mature Singles go to Steel Magnolias** at Normandale Community College. The play starts at 7:30. Come early to pick up your ticket at the box office. Ten tickets are reserved. Call Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068) before Feb 16 to reserve your spot.

Be part of a small group discussion for Lent! - This year we will host a few small groups during Lent, using *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. The groups will last for six weeks and meet at different times. Mary Pol will lead a group on Thursdays from Noon – 1 pm beginning February 15 and ending on March 22. Mary Koon will lead a group Mondays from 5 – 6:15 pm, from February 12 - March 19. Nathan will lead a group of youth and young adults and will determine dates and times for that group. If you are interested in joining a discussion, please let Mary Koon know or just show up! We will have the books in the office to purchase for \$10 each. Also, each Wednesday night in Lent, we will offer a short contemplative service using some of the practices in *The Book of Forgiving*. We pray that Lent will be a time of reflection, prayer and meaning for all ages.



Warm the Bench for the Super Bowl

Bring a new or gently used blanket or throw to church before or on February 4. We will put them on the pews and then donate them to Bridging.

Financials submitted by Sue Greimel

Through Dec 31	2017		Act vs Budg	2016
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$716,494	\$679,184	\$37,310	\$700,849
Expense YTD	\$721,191	\$745,104	\$23,913	\$723,805
Income – Exp	(\$4,696)	(\$65,920)	\$61,224	(\$22,956)

Out North: MNLGBTQ History

This fall, Twin Cities PBS (TPT) produced the first ever, feature-length film to document Minnesota's LGBTQ history, *Out North: MNLGBTQ History*. The two-hour film lifts up the stories of both well-known and largely unknown LGBTQ Minnesotans who found each other and spoke out when it was a tremendous risk to do so. The film explores this untold history through the lens of those who shaped it.

Please join us for a viewing of this powerful Minnesota story on Friday, February 2 (Senior High Room from 7 – 9 pm) or view at home <http://www.tpt.org/out-north/> and then join us for the Adult Faith Formation at 9:15 am on Sunday February 4 for a discussion about the intersection of Minnesota's LGBTQ history and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church's mission. *Out North* producers, Dr. Jane L Miller and Amie Miller, will be joining the discussion on February 4.



We are looking for **temporary housing for a young man in his 20s** (the son of an Oak Grove member). Would you be willing to let him use a room in your home for 2-3 months? Please contact Pastor Bill if you are interested in learning more (bchadwick@oakgrv.org or 952-888-4621).

News from the Session

Open Session Position — Marleen Singhrai has resigned from the Session because of a change in her work schedule. The Nominating Committee will be looking for someone to fill out the last two years of her term. If you have a suggestion, including yourself, please give or send it to the church office. Thanks!

Suspension of Committee Meetings During Lent — the session recommends that regular committee meetings be skipped during Lent, if possible, so that people can use that time to feed their spirits.

New Staff Position at Oak Grove — this month, we will be bringing on a **Marketing and Media Intern** to help assist our staff as we continue to examine the different ways we communicate our vision at Oak Grove. The responsibilities include creating pamphlets and posters for our different events and services, contributing content and editing advice to the website, and assisting staff and leaders in the creation of consistent content standards for all of Oak Grove.

Intergenerational Weekend

March 2 - 4, 2018 at Clearwater Forest

Relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages. The event begins Friday evening and ends Sunday morning.



Arrive Friday evening and depart Sunday morning after breakfast and worship. Enjoy outdoor recreation – cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, hiking, etc. – or indoor activities -- cards, games, puzzles, reading, resting, eating, etc. by the fireplace. \$75 per room per night + \$15 per person (\$8/child) for food. (Final costs will depend on the size of our group.) Example: fee per couple would be \$150 (2 nights/room) + \$30 (food) for a total of \$180.

Sign up in February. Contact Larry & Priscilla Pearson with questions (952-835-9480).

Winter Chrysalis, February 23-25 at Clearwater Forest

When we find ourselves at a crossroads in life, we tend to wait until that “big moment” appears before our eyes that guides us to making the absolutely, no holds barred, correct decision. When in fact, that moment of decision sometimes passes us by, because we may be focusing on the wrong type of message for guidance. Learn how to “be still” and listen in the “quiet” before moving forward. Keynote Speaker is Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins, “Listening for the Whisper of God.”

Activities include:

- Cooking with the Bible
- Prayer flags
- What’s the Buzz about Bees
- Book Discussion on *In the Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day* by Mark Batterson
- Saturday evening entertainment -- Chrysalis Game Show!!!

Cost is \$150 or \$200, depending on housing choice. Register at www.clearwaterforest.org by February 8, 2018. Contact Marsha Pridgeon (320-630-4277 or Marsha.macy@yahoo.com) or Carol Frechette (frech001@tc.umn.edu) with questions.

Creative People!

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 Presbyterian Church of the Apostles (PCA — 701 E. 130th St, Burnsville). We meet monthly at 9:00 am. 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!

February 3 - PCA
March 3 - Oak Grove

April 7 - PCA
May 5 - Oak Grove

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

A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.

Adult Faith Formation LOVE GROWS HERE

Join us in February for events to strengthen our faith through learning and experience!

Friday, Feb 2, "Out North in MN" film screening in the youth room 7 pm – 9 pm (See details p 4)

Sunday, Feb 4 – Discussion of "Out North in MN" with its creators

Friday, Feb 9 For ALL Ages -- Welcome the winter Olympics with a pizza party and Gold-medal pop-up talent show! We'll get you home in time to watch the opening ceremonies of the Olympics!

Sunday, Feb 11 – ALL ages welcome Richard Bruxvoort Colligan as he shares the gift of his music. Come learn, be inspired and enjoy some good music and laughter with Richard.

Sunday, Feb 18 – Join U of MN professor, Neeraj Mehta as he talks about the challenging face of affordable housing. Neeraj will repeat a presentation that so moved members of our Supportive Housing Team that we invited him to share it with us.

Sunday, Feb 25 – Join Sue Watlov Phillipstalks about homelessness in Minnesota. Sue is the Executive Director of MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing.) MICAH was founded in 1988 in response to an accelerating homeless crisis. Our strength comes from bringing together people of faith to act on their values to support affordable housing, undo racism and build regional equity.

MICAH works with congregations, faith leaders, and community partners to increase awareness and understanding the need for affordable housing. This creates advocates who fight for changes in public policies to encourage all communities to preserve and build affordable housing.

Wednesdays in February

Feb 7 — Pastor Bill continues the Discipleship 101 series.

Feb 14 — join us for **Ash Wednesday worship** at 7:00 pm .

Feb 21 & 28 — enjoy a contemplative worship experience at 6:30 following WoW! Dinner (these worship times will continue through March 20).

This month is a great month for Children to be at Oak Grove. Here's what's happening:

Friday, Feb 9, 6 pm – 8 pm: Family pizza night and Gold-medal pop-up talent show. Come, bring your family, make a pizza, share good conversation and then we'll put on a talent show, Olympic style! Which country will you represent? Will there be a torch bearer? Singing, dancing, reading, cartwheels, poetry reading, joke-telling...anything goes. Be creative and let's have some fun!!!!

On Sundays, the **preschoolers** will continue to go directly to their classroom instead of meeting in the Community Room. Preschool will continue their journey through the stories of Jesus, playing, making art and enjoying one another.

Children **K-5th grade** will meet to work on a mission project on Sunday, Feb 4. On Feb 11 and 18, they will explore the topic of fairness (and the Olympics, too!) with Bob Gerdes and Sue Greimel. On Sunday, Feb 25, we'll round out the month by continuing with our writing project.

WoW! continues on Wednesday nights, with the exception of Ash Wednesday, Feb 14. We will have a family service after dinner that night, and confirmation students will be imposing ashes and serving communion. Please plan to join us for this meaningful service! The other Wednesday nights in February, the students will meet for music and with their teachers, as they journey through Jesus' life.

Condolences, Congratulations!

Condolences to family and friends of:

Felix Furber, friend of the Taylor's and cousin of Jim Furber, died December 29 following a long illness.

Mary Samuelson, daughter of former members, Ed & Deann Turja, died January 3.

Rod Geist, brother-in-law of Paula Uvodich, died January 21 in the state of Virginia.

Michael Brown, nephew of Nancy Kachel, died January 22 after a fall.

Kate Nass, friend of Nathan Hirsh, died in early January.

Desmond Tutu Were Ochieng Were, Elizabeth Longrie's brother, died in Kenya in January.



Medical Equipment Update from the Board of Deacons

Thank you for your wonderful generosity in donating to our medical supply closet. Our supplies were low and you filled the closet to overflowing! We have run out of room and

have no more space for new items. Please check with the Deacons before bringing in any more equipment. Thanks for your understanding.



Congratulations!

Betsy Marvin auditioned for and was selected to sing alto with the Indialantic Chamber Singers – or ICS. As Betsy tells it, “Most of the members are choir directors and/or have been trained vocalists. But I'm real willing to sit in the back row of the altos!!” *The ICS was founded in 1999, by David Vogeding, a familiar face in the Central Florida music community and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2001. By invitation in 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2017, the ICS performed at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The name of the group is taken from the location of rehearsals, in Indialantic, Florida, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Eastminster is the church Betsy & Rick attend while in Florida and at which they are Affiliate Members.*

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
Feb 1	This Puzzle Called Grief
Feb 8	Grief and Intimacy
Feb 15	Grief and Family Systems
Feb 22	Strategies for Getting Unstuck

February 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 Katherine Jacobson*16 | 16 Sharron Meier |
| 4 Jim McCarl**86; Erin Wenz | 17 Douglas Duvall |
| 5 Grace Diller*2 | 18 Jeanne Castle**90 |
| 6 Sharon Nolte; Rick Schuette | 19 Bev Heise |
| 7 Jim Rogers**85 | 21 Elizabeth Longrie; Annalisa Pearson |
| 8 Mike Glusser; Mark Rysavy; Ed Schmidt | 23 Zachary Orr*5 |
| 10 Pat Boehne**85; Sue Greimel | 24 Stephen Jones; Sunny Snyder |
| 11 Yvonne Erickson**89; Katie Johnson;
Audrey St. Martin**94 | 25 Jeri Anderson; Steve Lang; Penny Nesbitt;
Lisa Stanford |
| 14 Michael Bliss; Emma Lang*12 | 26 Jennifer Marrone |
| 15 Yvonne Dodge; Amber Reis; Janice Wright | 28 Lois Burnes**86; Nancy Hoaglund |



**Lunch Bunch
Respite Care
Fun**



Politically Homeless

Dear Oak Grove Teammates:

I have been a reader of Sojourners Magazine for over 40 years. I have found it to be thoughtful, creative, prophetic, and most of all, faithful to Jesus. I strongly encourage you to subscribe yourself. In addition, I invite you to take the Matthew 25 (“*Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me*”) pledge which Sojourners’ editor, Jim Wallis, writes about below. If you do, will you please let me know? Bill Chadwick

Politically Homeless

How Republicans — and Democrats — Are Leaving Many Christians Behind

By Jim Wallis 1-04-2018

I feel politically homeless as we enter 2018 — and I know I am not alone. Many Christians are feeling the same, as other Christians, especially white evangelicals, have undertaken completely uncritical support for a president who is the antithesis of the gospel of Jesus Christ — endangering the reputation of Christianity, especially among a new generation.

Of course, the two political parties are not morally equivalent; it makes a great difference how we vote, as we will have the opportunity to do later this year. The Republican Party’s political sellout to Donald Trump — and the Democrats’ lack of a clear moral alternative many people of faith are excited to support — leave many of us feeling politically homeless.

Republican leadership has sold its party’s soul to a bad, amoral, childish, and dangerous man. Most of my Republican friends agree. Trump was elected president by anti-establishment backlash and in a series of political accidents by both parties, many candidates, and our electoral system. He has been revealed as an intellectually shallow and a mentally incompetent leader, a person who lacks any moral conscience, an unapologetic promoter of racial bigotry and misogyny, a personality with embarrassing emotional immaturity and alarming instability that threatens disorder in the nation, and a man whose disrespect for the rule of law and our political system of checks and balances can best be described as narcissistic and authoritarian paranoia. The president of the United States is now a very dangerous threat to American democracy and national security. While there are some Republican commentators and elected officials who have voiced opposition to the president’s behavior, the Republican Party has shown itself unable or unwilling to hold him accountable and has, in fact, become a captured party by an aspiring autocrat who is telling the world that he has the biggest nuclear button.

The GOP has disregarded the best values of principled conservatism: fiscal integrity and responsibility, an allegiance to truth and honesty, genuine pro-family values, national security through global engagement, the commitment to opportunity for all, the value of empathy for those in need, and the worth and equality of every person under the law. The Republicans have substituted a moral relationship to the presidency for a transactional one, ignoring Trump’s consistent incompetence, immorality, and hateful divisiveness in exchange for economic and environmental regulations and tax cuts that support the greedy demands of their wealthiest donors. All this makes many conservatives with Christian and other moral values feel politically homeless.

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Politically Homeless cont'd from page 11

Democratic Party rhetoric doesn't appeal to the values of many Christians who care most about poverty and racism.

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, has lost its historic relationship to working class people around the country, and has indeed become dominated by cultural elites who have little connection to ordinary families and the many pressures on their lives. Democratic Party rhetoric doesn't appeal to the values of many Christians who care most about poverty and racism. For many election cycles, Democratic consultants have replaced the word "poor" with the words "middle class," and the party is no longer perceived as one that cares nearly enough about the needs of people on the margins of life in America. The text from Matthew 25 that draws many Christians into engaging in politics does not say, "As you have done to the middle class, you have done to me." It rather has Jesus saying to us, "As you have done to the least of these, you have done to me." It's a biblical text many Democratic consultants seem not to have read or have forgotten.

"It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped." Those words from Hubert H. Humphrey would likely not be described as the mission of Democrats today, many of whom are as connected to the Wall Street elites as the Republicans are.

Despite being dependent on African-American voters, the Democratic Party has often taken them for granted instead of courageously addressing the realities of institutionalized racism, and instead of investing in organizers, mobilizers, and candidates in African-American and Latinx communities.

Unfortunately, the Democrats are no longer a faith-friendly party. Voters with religious faith are often ignored or even dismissed without serious outreach or respectful dialogue. I have fought religious fundamentalism for most of my life, but the secular fundamentalism that controls much of the left and the Democratic Party at the national level can be equally ideological, irrational, and divisive — too often even seeming to attack religion itself...

WATCH: The Matthew 25 Pledge <https://sojo.net/matthew-25-pledge>

Sign the pledge now. You'll receive a full suite of free toolkits and organizing resources, as well as access to a network of justice advocates just like you.

Faithfully,

Pastor Bill

For those without computer access you can sign the pledge

I pledge to protect and defend vulnerable people in the name of Jesus. (your signature) by sending it with your name, address and phone number to **Matthew 25 Pledge** 408 C St NE, Washington, DC 20002.