

LOVING GOD...

CHANGING LIVES

# Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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

April 2018

Dear Friends:

Sending your kids to Clearwater is one of THE most important things you can do for your child's faith development. *See page 8 for info.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone recently suggested to me that it was time to repeat my every few year suggestions for elderly transitions regarding housing and driving. Because you've read these before I will be brief. As a pastor, a chaplain, and a son, I have learned a lot about the aging process and necessary changes to be made. So first, I really encourage people to "move before you have to," before there is a crisis in health. It is so much easier on everyone involved.

Second, if there is *any doubt* about one's ability to drive safely, it's time to stop driving. I know that is soooooo hard. But you don't want to crown a lifetime of good works with a horrible crash. True cautionary tales:

1. I know two folks who decided to stop driving *after* their car crash. As one put it, "I sure wish I had stopped the day *before*." In neither of those cases was anyone killed.
2. The husband of one of our parishioners was told by his doctor, "Stay off the freeways. Only drive around town (they lived in Shakopee at the time)." Within a few months he killed himself in a crash a mile from home.
3. Friends of ours, along with their siblings, were having conversations about taking Mom's keys away. Before they got up their courage to do so, Mom killed a family of five in a car crash. Our friends are living with that the rest of their lives. (Note that I haven't been using the word "accident." The official state trooper language is "crash." Think about it.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Many of you have asked how my writing is coming. I have recently spent three weeks of continuing education to concentrate on the book of essays I have been working on from time to time for years. (Again, I normally would have done this time away in the summer when things are less busy, but Mary Koon will be on a much-deserved sabbatical this summer.) I am very pleased with how productive this time was. I need about forty essays/chapters for the book. I have completed twelve, have fourteen more very near completion (my writing coach is very demanding—we often differ on when a piece is "done"), another seven started and about fifteen more themes figured out. As I finish these, you will hear some of them in sermons or retreats. My target date to finish my part is March 1, 2019. Then publishing will likely take another year. Again, I am so grateful for this time and for your encouragement. I will keep you posted.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bill

**OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN**  
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**E-mail:** [ogpc@oakgrv.org](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org)  
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**Office Hours**

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

**Oak Grove Staff**

Ministers: **the 500 members**

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

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**Mary Koon**  
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[janshannon1@comcast.net](mailto:janshannon1@comcast.net)

**2018 Per Capita is \$34.50**

**New Member Inquiry Class**

**April 8 Noon – 2:00 pm** (lunch and nursery provided)

**April 15 9:30** meet with Session and join during second service.

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



**will be on Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 to Noon** – Come help us get our church grounds in shape for welcoming summer! Yes, we will be giving away 2 sets of Twins tickets again this year (2 tickets/set). The drawing will occur during Spring

Cleanup and the tickets will be for the day of the church outing to the Twins Game. This drawing is for everyone who helps with Spring Cleanup.

**Artists & Hobbyists!  
Combined Friendship/Craft & Hobby Fair**

**Friendship  
Craft & Hobby Fair**

On April 22 during the education hour in Gideon Pond hall, we will have our annual friendship fair. This event provides opportunities to do things you enjoy or just want to try without a major commitment. As an added dimension, we offer you the opportunity to showcase your artistic talents. If you love painting, quilting, or woodworking, or you have a hobby or collection that is unique, this is a chance to share your talents and interests with others in the congregation. Children and youth are especially encouraged to participate!

The purpose is to find a wide range of family, intergenerational, active and not so active events to get small groups of people together for fun and fellowship. For the more active, there are Oak Grovers willing to lead groups for sailing, kayaking, and mountain biking. Long time groups will provide info on Loaves & Fishes, Presbyterian Women & circles and the annual Twins outing.

Activities can be physically active or not (please consider accessibility when choosing a venue); a one-time event or ongoing; and preferably (but not necessarily) be low- or no-cost.

If you are willing to take charge of an activity, or wish to display your artwork, collection, or hobby, contact Ron Dubis at 612-868-9194 or any member of the Friendship Committee. If you have suggestions for small groups, there will be a box in the Narthex for this purpose.

## Upcoming Group Events

- >**Tuesday, April 3, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship** at Zeke's. Pick up a fellow male who no longer drives and enjoy fellowship over lunch.
- >**Thursday, April 5, 2:00 pm, Caregivers' Tea** — come with your loved one. While your loved one enjoys fun and treats, treat yourself to tea/coffee as you share your experiences with others. RSVP to the church by April 3 (952-888-4621).
- >**Monday, April 16, 5:00 pm, Singles** (and all who want the fellowship) will meet at Zeke's. Just show up.
- >**Thursday, April 19, 11:00 am, Lunch Bunch Respite Care.** Leave your loved one at church for lunch and fun while you take a break to run errands or just relax! RSVP by April 24 (952-888-4621).
- >**Thursday, April 26, 6:00 pm, Single Ladies** will go to Color Me Mine, paint your own ceramics, in Eagan for Ladies Night. You do not have to be artistic and will get instructions and ideas to be creative. Call Jane Jacobson for more information and to reserve your spot (612-267-9068).
- >**Friday, April 27, 6:30 pm, Rainbow Fellowship** will meet and enjoy pizza and root beer floats. Location to be determined and will be announced in the weekly bulletins. Contact Susan with questions (sskovran@aol.com).

## Blessing of the Animals

Save the date for Saturday, May 19, 4:00 - 5:00 pm at the church. We'll have a groomer, a trainer, a therapy dog and more. Treats for your pets and prize drawings.



**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, April 2 at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577) meets Wednesday, April 11 at 8:45 am for Bible study and fellowship. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle.

**Next Coordinating Team Meeting** will be Monday, April 9, at 1:30 pm at the church. All women who are members of the church are welcome to attend.

**Social Justice Committee collecting items for assembling Bags for the Homeless – please**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warm socks</li> <li>• warm hats</li> <li>• gloves</li> <li>• bottled water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• toothpaste</li> <li>• toothbrushes</li> <li>• McDonald gift cards</li> <li>• snacks that won't spoil</li> </ul> | <b>FOR WOMEN:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sanitary pads</li> <li>• other personal items</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

**Supportive Housing Corner**

The Supportive Housing Committee has been learning about advocacy over the last year. What we have learned is **it is easy to be an advocate!** Here are some simple steps for you to follow.

1. Identify what you are passionate about.
2. Write out your story. This can be a couple of sentences or a couple of pages. Include your name, address, telephone number, why the issue is important to you, and your personal history with the issue if you have one.
3. Edit your story for the audience you will address.
4. Practice telling your story in front of the mirror, a family member or close friend.
5. Deliver your story. Call your federal members of Congress, state reps and senators, governor, city council members, mayor, school board members, etc. (We learned that at the city council level, 7 phone calls indicates an issue of concern!) Phone numbers are easy to get on their websites. You can also send an email or letter.
6. If you are really passionate, join an organization that supports your issue.
7. Thank those who are supporting your issue. They need to hear the support as well as the concerns.

In the words of Helen Keller:  
 "Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much."

*Happy Anniversary*

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PEB in Pakistan** — As many of you know Oak Grove and our Mission Committee has supported Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan (PEB) for a number of years with general support and the building of classrooms in Martinpur. In

November 2012, Greg & Linda Johnson, Judy Moynihan, Harry Lichy and Sharon Nolte from Oak Grove Church traveled to Pakistan to attend the classrooms dedication and see firsthand the work being done there.

Please join us on Sunday, April 15, as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the return of schools to the PEB. Veda Javaid Gill, Executive Director of PEB in Pakistan, will share a Minute for Mission at the 10:45 am service. She will also join us as we celebrate this milestone year with cake and beverages after the second service. Veda will share with us how far PEB has come over the past 20 years.

**Be sure to mark your calendar and help us celebrate this 20<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary.**





**Twin Cities Bronze *in Concert*** at Oak Grove Presbyterian, Sunday, April 29, 4:00 pm. Come and enjoy an inspiring handbell concert!!

Be a gift to musicians from Arecibo, Puerto Rico (free will offering). All proceeds from this concert will help handbell ringing and singing college students from Puerto Rico travel to the US to share their incredible spirit and musicianship. Twin Cities Bronze traveled to Puerto Rico last summer and met these incredible musicians. Get to know the very students you'll be supporting as they join us via video during our concert. (Andrew Hess, an Oak Grove member, plays with this group.)

## Westminster Town Hall Forum presents **NADINE BURKE HARRIS**

Tuesday, April 10, Noon **Healing the Effects of Childhood Adversity and Trauma**

Pediatrician and advocate for children's health. Founder of the Center for Youth Wellness. Author of *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity*.



And



**STEVE SCHMIDT**, Tuesday, May 1, Noon **A Candid Look at Today's Headlines**

Founder of the Center for Political Communication at the University of Delaware. Former adviser to George W. Bush and senior campaign strategist for John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nicollet Mall & 12th Street, Minneapolis.  
**[westminsterforum.org](http://westminsterforum.org)**. Parking is available in nearby ramps.

### **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!

**April 7 - PCA**

**May 5 - Oak Grove**

**June 2 - PCA**

Questions? Dawn Baddeley [dawnrn90@comcast.net](mailto:dawnrn90@comcast.net) (PCA) or Yvonne Dodge [yvonesdodge@hotmail.com](mailto:yvonesdodge@hotmail.com) (Oak Grove).

*A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.*

**Adult Faith Formation LOVE GROWS HERE**

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

**Sundays in April**

- Apr 1 Easter Sunday, NO FAITH FORMATION
- Apr 8 Rainbow Fellowship will talk about "Identity"
- Apr 14 Saturday trip to Hindu Temple in Maple Grove (*watch announcements for info*)
- Apr 15 Understanding the Hindu Faith with guest speaker Ned Mohan
- Apr 22 Friendship/Hobby/Fellowship Fair – *see page 2 for more information*
- Apr 29 Five Pillars of Islam presented by Seyda Sadia Tarannum from the Northwest Islamic Community Center in Plymouth

**Wednesdays in April** will continue the Disciple 101 series.

**April 4**, Pastor Bill Chadwick

**April 11 & 18**, guest teacher, Tom Watson (co-pastor of First Presbyterian South St. Paul and United professor), will lead a class on Presbyterian History.

**Summer is coming – sign up for camp!** — Summer camp provides a host of benefits for children and youth and we are blessed to support and have access to Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. This year, Pastor Bill will be at camp the week of June 24 – 30. Conference Camp is a new offering for Clearwater and it is a "choose your own adventure" type of camp. **Pastor Bill will be heading up** a week of fishing. **Pastor Mary will be working** with middle and high school girls in a Girls Empowerment Camp during Endless, the week of July 29. We would love to see a bunch of Oak Grove children and youth take part in camp this summer. To help make this happen, Oak Grove has scholarships available upon request for returning campers. To express how important we believe camp is to the faith development of young people, **Oak Grove will pay the total cost of camp for a first-timer.**

There's also a week-long family activity in early August called the Family Creative Arts Festival. A number of Oak Grove families have attended for many years and invite others to join them. Brochures are in the Narthex.

Questions? Please contact Mary at [mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org). To sign up for all camp events, go to: <http://clearwaterforest.org/>.

**Mark your calendars for upcoming events from Children's Ministry**

**Messy Church**, April 22 -- We want all children to be part of this extraordinary Sunday. This year's theme will be "Old Turtle and the Broken Truth," a message particularly relevant to our time. Children will practice on Wednesday evenings so we hope you can take part! If your child would like to be a reader or have a solo, please contact Mary ([mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org)).

**Are you called to serve the children of Oak Grove and the community?**

If you are willing to share your time and talent with the children during VBS this year (June 18 – 22, 9 am – Noon), please contact Karen Gerdes (952-884-5549 or [bkgerdes@comcast.net](mailto:bkgerdes@comcast.net)) or Mary Koon (952-888-4621 or [koon@oakgrv.org](mailto:koon@oakgrv.org)). We'll need help in all areas – kitchen, games, art, and more. Thank you! Youth are invited to help as well and we will hold a special training for them in June after school is out.



**Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!!!** -- *Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit!* -- a children's curriculum designed to help children explore the Caribbean to discover the fruits of the spirit and how to apply them in their daily lives. For 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Monday – Friday, June 18 – 22, 9 AM – Noon.

Sign up now!

## Condolences, Congratulations, etc!

### Condolences to family and friends of:

**Mavis Holland**, Sonya Butler and Judy Cooper's aunt, died in February.

**Robin Marty**, Bev Carroll's son-n-law, died February 25.

**Leland Edmund**, Milissa Carter's uncle, died in March.

**Mattie Marvin** died March 16. Service will be June 6 at Oak Grove.

**Janet Pine** died March 18. Memorial service date is TBD.

### Congratulations!

**Sida and Det Souvannasane** have opened a new sewing store at the Mall of America. **Sew Fit** is on the third floor across from Sears.



### Thank You, Oak Grove

My family has so much appreciated your kind condolences and invitations to your services for the families of your members who have passed away. I personally have so appreciated your community reaching out to me in consolation. I have been so comforted knowing my mother's final spiritual community was so supportive, loving and kind.

*Beth Vance (daughter of deceased member, Betty Vance)*

Thank you for all your prayers and cards during my recovery from knee surgery.

*Priscilla Pearson*

Thank you, Oak Grove, for providing a neutral pulpit for our church. Your kind welcome was appreciated as we observed a potential candidate.

*Plymouth Presbyterian Pastoral Nominating Committee*

Thank you for your donation through our Christmas Challenge for the Martinpur Boys School. Your faithful generosity through this gift, as with your earlier donations, enable the educational and social ministry of PEB to continue. We are deeply grateful to you!

*Friends of PEB*

Recently I required surgery, which resulted in hospitalization. If there is ever a time your spirit needs uplifting this is it. The response of Oak Grove church was heart-warming -- from an anonymous card made by a young Sunday school child, a prayer shawl delivered with visits from Mary. A visit by long-time pew neighbors and thoughtful cards from church friends were reminders of the good, kind-hearted people of this congregation. Thank you all.

*Larry Thronson*

### Healing Touch Ministry

As part of our spiritual care ministry, Oak Grove will offer Healing Touch sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. One-hour sessions start at 3 pm and end at 8 pm – sign up in the office. We believe that Healing Touch is part of a holistic model of care and are excited for this new opportunity!



### Spring Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursdays, April 5, 2018 – May 24, 2018 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**Atonement Lutheran Church**, 601 East Old Shakopee Rd. Bloomington, MN, 952-881-9244

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
April 5	<i>Understanding Grief</i>	April 19	<i>Is It Grief, Or Something More?</i>
April 12	<i>Grief &amp; Resiliency</i>	April 26	<i>How to Go Back to Familiar Places</i>

## April 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	Sara Anderson; Heather Duvall; Eva Johnson*10; Polly Johnson; Tammy Kaplan; Karolyn Lee	17	Jim Dutcher**85; Ty Hudson; Anita Johnson*4
2	Vera DeLaHunt	18	Avery Marrone*19
3	Micala Burns	19	Mary Ann Brihn**95; Jake Krey
4	Dawn Acker; Carol Dykstra; Mary Render	20	Sarah Orr*3; Carmen Roberts
5	Bob Horvath	21	Kay Lancette
7	Brian Ebeling; Rachael Hudson	22	Judy Acker; Lizanne Ham; Barb Nelson**87
8	Cindy St. Martin	24	Autumn St. Martin*15
9	Lynda Alexander Verona Stoesz**86	25	Andy Snyder; Steve St. Martin**91
10	Al Gebhard	26	Jen Myers
12	Jan Lichtenberger	27	Harry Lichy**86
13	Nora Kelly	28	Joy Langer; Bob Ritter
16	Maureen Switzer	30	Linda Blair

## February Session Highlights

Session approved the following purchases which will significantly improve our ministry:

- a new computer server with greatly enhanced broadband capability.
- LED lighting in the sanctuary, which will significantly impact our emissions and our electricity bills
- outside security cameras

## Financials

*submitted by Sue Greimel*

Through Feb 28	2018		Act vs Budg	2017
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
<b>Income YTD</b>	\$265,582	\$234,230	\$31,352	\$113,150
<b>Expense YTD</b>	\$77,520	\$75,726	(\$1,794)	\$110,746
<b>Income – Exp</b>	\$188,062	\$158,504	\$29,558	\$2,404

# 2018 Intergenerational Retreat & Chili Cookoff



Fort & Snowman made by the kids.



## Donations Requested by Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) Refugee Services

Minnesota is an important state for refugee resettlement, and has resettled more than 90,000 refugees since 1970. Today, most refugee arrivals to Minnesota are from Burma, Somalia, Bhutan, and Iraq. The MCC was founded in 1948 as the statewide ecumenical agency representing mainline-Protestant denominations in Minnesota. MCC's membership of faith groups reflects the diversity of Christianity in the United States including 24 Protestant, Orthodox, and Historic Black Church denominations, representing 37% of the practicing population in the state, or 1 million Minnesotans. Refugee Services became a program of the MCC in 1985 and partners with Church World Service and Episcopal Migration Ministries. Since that time, MCC Refugee Services has welcomed more than 6,000 refugees from around the world to lives of freedom, hope and opportunity in Minnesota. Support is offered to refugees through four lines of service: Case management, Immigration, Employment, and Education.

It takes a community to resettle each new refugee who arrives in Minnesota. Refugees have already endured the trauma of war, the difficulty of flight, and the uncertainty of waiting in a refugee camp. A primary goal of MCC Refugee Services is to make sure that the experience of resettling in MN is full of welcome and hope. MCC Refugee Services has expertise in providing high quality services and navigating complex systems, but depends on volunteers, churches, and community members to really make MN feel like home to our newest neighbors. For more information about MN Council of Churches Refugee Services and how you can help, visit their website at <http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/>.

Here's how Oak Grove plans to help. The Mission Committee is sponsoring a donation drive to collect much-needed household items for refugees through the MN Council of Churches Refugee Services. Please bring your donations to Oak Grove Church April 2 – 15.

- Tall kitchen wastebasket with lid
- Tall kitchen garbage bags
- Small wastebaskets (for bathrooms, bedrooms)
- Shower liners (no rings)
- Twin and full sheet sets
- Towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth)
- Electric rice cooker (8 cups or more in size)
- Wheel chairs (portable, compact size)

### Cleaning Bucket Items Needed:

5-gallon plastic bucket with re-sealable lid  
Toilet brush  
Toilet cleaner  
Trash bags (tall kitchen size)  
Liquid dish soap  
Antibacterial hand soap  
Sponges

Scouring pads  
Multi-surface cleaner  
Window cleaner  
Paper towels/wipes  
Reusable cleaning cloths  
Wisk broom/counter brush

Checks are also acceptable, payable to Oak Grove Presbyterian Church with the memo "MCC Refugee Services." Those funds will be used to purchase items for the cleaning bucket.

Contact Carol Long if you have questions (952-432-3881; [clong12135@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clong12135@sbcglobal.net)). Thank you in advance for your generous donations.