

# Oak Leaves



**Inside this issue:**

Congregational News/Events 2-3

Social Justice/ Mission 4

Oak Grove & Community 5

Calendar 6-7

Faith Formation 8

Condolences/ Congrats, etc. 9

Birthdays 10

Blood Drive 10

Financials 10

Pastor Bill is Reading 11-12

Photos throughout

**Inserts:**

- Pastor Mary is Reading
- New Members
- Safe, Healthy Lawns

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

May 2018

News flash! At its meeting on April 24, the Session approved a solar garden subscription, the placement of 61 solar panels on our southwest facing roof, and a rain garden for the intersection of Penn and Old Shakopee Road (which we think will be entirely paid for by the Nine Mile Watershed District). THANKS to all involved!

I am writing this on Thursday, April 12 as 8-12 inches of snow is forecast for Saturday. I'm going to go out on a limb and presume the snow will be gone by the time you read this. (If not, Mary's and my pastoral care load will consist of an avalanche of depressed people, including us.)

So, Happy May, my favorite month of the year! Everything is bursting into life, the skeeters aren't out yet, it's the fishing opener and our daughters were both born in May.

It's also lawn care season. Kris and I have gradually gone away from using herbicides completely and our lawn still looks pretty good and we know we aren't poisoning ourselves, our neighbor kids or our dogs. I encourage you to do the same. There is detailed info as an insert in this Oak Leaves. Shorthand version: Aerate spring (and especially) fall and then overseed. Vary the seeds you use each time. A variety of grasses will deal with climate change better than straight Kentucky bluegrass. Water only when dry, and then water at least an inch, and then wait at least a week before watering again. That helps the roots to grow down deep and strong. Use a mulching mower and keep the mulch on your lawn.

Oak Grove has decided to try using no herbicides this year. We may need your help plucking or digging some dandelions. ☺

\* \* \* \* \*

I am part of a newly-organized group entitled *Presbyterians for Common Sense Gun Laws*. If you are interested in participating, the next meeting will be before the presbytery meeting at Westminster Church downtown (new underground parking), Tuesday May 8, 2:30-3:45 PM. If you are interested in carpooling, please call the church office.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thanks to all who participated in the 12 X 12 meeting of sharing best practices with leaders from our sister church, Chain of Lakes. Lots of good program ideas were generated and shared both directions. Chain of Lakes has formed a Building Team and their expectation is to break ground on March 1, 2020. Keep upholding them in prayer, please.

Faithfully, Bill

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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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**2018 Per Capita is \$34.50**

## Oak Grove Security Update

There have been no further incidents since the one last fall.

A Security Team has been in place for some months, consisting of retired police officers Patty Nail and Bob Nesbitt, plus Don Alman, Bob Gerdes, Larry Klueh, Al Greimel, Rod Myers, chair, and Bill Chadwick, staff liaison. The Security Team reports the following actions, among others:

Security training has been held with the staff and ushers and for those members of the congregation who wished training.

The Building and Operations team has installed 12 security cameras around the building.

As of April 8, teams of two have been monitoring the cameras on Sunday morning. Because of this, the choir door has been unlocked on Sunday mornings. (The Oasis and SW doors will remain locked.) In the very unlikely event that anything suspicious is seen on the cameras, the team will call 911 and not send any "civilians" to investigate.

It was suggested that the Security Team meet with the ushers twice a year to discuss security concerns about duties and expectations of ushers. (Again, we discussed avoiding confrontation and instead notifying law enforcement when help is needed.)

Security training for Sunday school teachers will be conducted in August prior to the start of Sunday school. Training for sound board operators and choir members is still pending.

Questions or suggestions, please contact Rod Myers ([myersrod@comcast.net](mailto:myersrod@comcast.net)) or Bill Chadwick ([bchadwick@oakgrv.org](mailto:bchadwick@oakgrv.org)).

## Upcoming Group Events

>**Tuesday, May 1, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew** Men's Fellowship at Zeke's. Pick up a friend who no longer drives and enjoy fellowship over lunch.

>**Saturday, May 12, 5:30 pm, Oak Rovers** (*mature adults who enjoy fellowship*) **Potluck and Planning Meeting** at the party room at Applewood Pointe, 8341 Lyndale Avenue S. Bring a potluck item to share – salad, main dish, dessert, etc. Beverages will be provided. Following dinner, there will be a short planning meeting, so think of activities you would like to see happen. Please RSVP to Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

>**Monday, May 14, 5:00 pm, Singles** (*and anyone who wants the fellowship and fun*) meet at Zekes. No reservations needed!

>**Monday, May 21, 10:00 am, Singles** (*and anyone who wants the fellowship and fun*) will go to the Arboretum. Carpool from church. This is a free admission day. We will stay for lunch. Call Jane Jacobson at 612-267-9068 with questions and to let her know that you will be carpooling.

## Pet Fair

**Saturday, May 19,**  
4:00 - 5:00 pm at the church. We'll have Blessing of the Animals, 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, May 1 at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Margaret Koch, 952-881-2582) meets Wednesday, May 9 at 8:45 am for Bible study and fellowship. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle.

### Supportive Housing Corner

On April 10 the Supportive Housing Committee toured the Season's Park Development that AEON purchased last September. We learned firsthand the challenges of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH). The strong real estate market is driving up purchase prices for apartment properties. The new owners make modest renovations and raise rents \$250-\$350 per month forcing out the existing tenants, usually with short notice.

The Season's Park property had much delayed maintenance when it was purchased. The financing allowed for renovation of 42 units which is just 10% of the property. They have chosen to renovate as apartments naturally vacate.

There is so much more that needs to be done. The Supportive Housing Committee has been looking for opportunities to partner with a property. We are considering adopting one or two buildings and sprucing up the gardens, painting hallways, and cleaning carpets in the hallways. We were told that one woman has lived there for 22 years and needs a new stove. It is the same stove 22 years later. Due to all the delayed maintenance, there is no money available to replace that stove. We would like to make that happen.

More information about how you can participate will be available when details are worked out.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OAK GROVE ON BEING NAMED A PC(USA) 'EARTH CARE' CONGREGATION!

On March 3, 2018, we received word that our application to be an Earth Care Congregation had been approved. Housed under the Hunger Program of our denomination, Earth Care congregations are those that meet a large number of strict criteria in the area of current environmental practices, education and plans for the future. Some of the factors in this award include Oak Grove's comprehensive environmental plan, using Windsource for electricity, replacing the vast majority of our lights (building and parking lot) with LED bulbs, installation of a rain garden, extensive planning for solar power, and so on. In addition, numerous educational events and materials and opportunities for political action have been offered to the congregation. (Plans for solar power and another rain garden are being explored at this moment.)

Thanks to all involved, especially the Green Committee, the Building and Operations Committee, the Monday Morning Guys and others.

## 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!

**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.*

**Help Us Serve** – Do you enjoy the fellowship of working on a one-day project? We need volunteers to help with serving for funerals. We are not sexist! Males and females are encouraged to help. Please sign up at church on Sundays, May 6 & 13 or call Jody Milton (952-831-7325) or the church (952-888-4621).



## Confirmation Lock-in

### Westminster Town Hall Forum presents

**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.



**RICHARD STENGEL**, Tuesday, May 22, 7pm

**Mandela's Way: Lessons for an Uncertain Age**

Former managing editor of *Time*. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy in the Obama administration. Co-writer of Nelson Mandela's book *The Long Walk to Freedom*. Author of *Mandela's Way*.

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

**Adult Faith Formation LOVE GROWS HERE**

Join us in May for events to strengthen our faith through learning and experience! May 20 is the last AFF session for the program year. We will begin again in September 2018.

**Sundays in May**

- May 6 Sadia Tarranum will speak on the Five Pillars of Islam
- May 13 Continuing *My Neighbor is Muslim*
- May 20 Continuing *My Neighbor is Muslim*

We will conclude the year with Ramadan dinner in Bloomington when offered.

**Messy**



**Church**



May 13 is the last Sunday School for this year. On May 20, help us thank and celebrate all the volunteers who have helped us make the year great! Then join us again for Sunday School in September 2018.

**CRUISIN' THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN WITH JESUS:**

**faithfulness, love, generosity, peace, and joy**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 18 – 22, 9:00-Noon, Age 3 - finishing 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

Lessons, Activities, Crafts, Games, Science and Fun with Friends—bring them along

Registration on paper and online available now! And you can pay by credit card online! ([www.oakgrv.org](http://www.oakgrv.org) and click on the Education/VBS tab — or check FaceBook!

**DON'T MISS THE FUN!!!!**

We are always in need of more helpers – contact Mary Koon ([mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org)) or Karen Gerdes ([bkgerdes@comcast.net](mailto:bkgerdes@comcast.net)) and we will find a place for you !!!!

## Condolences, Congratulations, etc!

### Condolences to family and friends of:

**Ken Shortridge**, friend of Karen Amato and Susan Skovran, died March 25.

**Mary Ann Brihn** died March 29.

**Norm Craven** died March 31.

**Pearl Chisolm**, Rita Raley's mother, died March 31.

**Howard Colwell**, Mary Koon's father, died April 18 in New Hampshire.

### Congratulations!

**Jiya Vee Kim Gerdes** was born April 10 to Peter & Jodie Gerdes. Proud grandparents are **Karen & Bob Gerdes**; proud aunt is **Heidi Schuchman**.

**Mason Robert Mol** was born to **Sue Power's** nephew and wife, Matt & Laura Mol.

### Thank You, Oak Grove

We wish to thank all of you for the many prayers, notes, flowers and gifts of food. Bev is feeling much better.  
*Bev & Jim Carroll*

Thank you to our Oak Grove family for all your kind and encouraging words, calls, visits and cards during my parents' recent health problems. Your support means a lot to me and my family. *Diane Baumgartner*

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers and for acknowledging my 80 years with Oak Grove. I really am so proud to be a member!  
*Inez Pond*



**Caregivers' Tea and Funtime for Loved Ones** will be **May 3 at 2 pm**. Bring your loved ones for a fun time while you are enjoying tea. RSVP to the church office (952-888-4621) **by Tuesday, May 1**. Questions? Call or email Mary Koon (mkoon@oakgrv.org).



**Lunch Bunch** is a time for you to drop your loved ones off for lunch and a fun time while you give yourself some time to run errands or just enjoy free time. This month, it will be on **May 17 at 11:00 am**. Please RSVP to the church (952-888-4621) by May 14.

Lunch Bunch occurs on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Put it on your calendars!

### Healing Touch Ministry

As part of our spiritual care ministry, Oak Grove offers 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 (or call 952-888-4621). We believe that Healing Touch is part of a holistic model of care and are excited for this 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

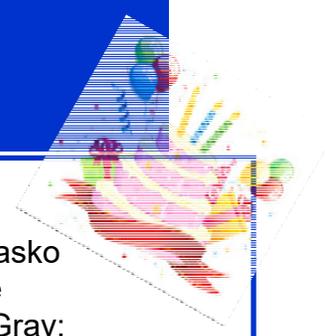
Date	Topic	Date	Topic
May 3	<i>Uncommon Sense about Change, Loss &amp; Grief</i>	May 17	<i>Gender Differences on Grief</i>
May 10	<i>Myths of Grief</i>	May 24	<i>Service of Remembrance</i>

## May 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 Davis Radtke*15; Leo Thomas*4                            | 16 Shar Glausser                                       |
| 2 Gary Meier; Eugene Morris**90; Katie Wasko               | 17 Chad Acker; Erik Olson; Abby Propsom*21; Paul Wasko |
| 3 Ben St. Martin   | 18 Sarah Elbert; Sue LaPointe                          |
| 4 Jim Carroll; Barb Johnson                                | 19 Sue Cavanaugh; Michelle Gray; Janet Shannon         |
| 5 Miriam Ebeling; Sarah Olson                              | 22 Charlie Schuchman*11                                |
| 6 Halcyon Hursh**99; Mark Pridgeon; Travis Scott           | 23 Katie Krentz  |
| 8 Derril Shantz**89  | 24 Cassie Acker*13; Catherine Randol**87               |
| 9 Marilyn Hardin**90; Linda Johnson                        | 25 Malorie Holloway*20; Madeleine Elbert*11            |
| 11 Nancy Scott   | 28 Lily Siegel*13                                      |
| 12 Anji Chadwick   | 29 Eileen Blake**93                                    |
| 13 Gene Dodge; Diane McNutt; Andy Nail                     | 31 Arne Johnson; Sue Lang                              |
| 14 Christina Persaud*15                                    |  |
| 15 Luella DeBono**98; Gloria Fretheim**94; Kent Randol**89 |  |



### Blood Drive at Oak Grove, May 22

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

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

## Financials

*submitted by Sue Greimel*

Through Mar 31	2018		Act vs Budg	2017
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
<b>Income YTD</b>	\$329,494	\$281,752	\$47,742	\$173,977
<b>Expense YTD</b>	\$181,264	\$203,427	(\$22,163)	\$167,756
<b>Income – Exp</b>	\$148,230	\$78,325	\$69,905	\$6,221

## Books Read Recently by Pastor Bill Chadwick

Kate Braestrup is chaplain to the Maine Warden Service. Her first book, and first of two memoirs, is *Here if You Need Me*, one of my all-time favorite books. In ***Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer to Life***, she does exactly that for beginners. Gentle theology, loads of practical tips and personal examples. One of the best books on prayer which I have read. And I have read a bunch!

The book concludes with a wonderful list of 51 brief prayers, scripture passages and blessings. A sampling:

### HOSPITAL PRAYER

O God, whose name is love  
I offer the prayer of my yearning heart  
I can't hold or heal my child.  
Please, hold her for me.  
Love moves in the skilled hands  
of those who would heal my baby  
Love is in their learning and their care  
God be in my understanding  
God be in my patience  
God be in my arms, as she is returned to me.  
May my child and all children be blessed  
My family and all families blessed  
May God's love enfold us, dwell in us,  
give us comfort  
And grant us peace. Amen. (KB)

### ST. AUGUSTINE'S PRAYER

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake  
Or watch, or work or weep tonight,  
And give your angels charge  
Over those who sleep.  
Tend your sick ones, O Lord God  
Rest your weary ones.  
Bless your dying ones.  
Soothe Your suffering ones.  
Pity your afflicted ones.  
Shield your joyous ones.  
All for your love's sake. Amen.

### AFRICAN PRAYER

God save us  
God hide us.  
When we sleep, God, do not sleep  
If we sleep, God, do not get drowsy,  
Tie us around Your arm, God,  
Like a bracelet.

### PRAYER AFTER WEEPING

O God whose work and will and very name is love  
we thank You  
for the gift we were given in (name).  
We yield with confidence to grief, knowing that pain  
will pass and  
and sorrow ends, but love does not die  
and will not end.  
Love abides in us, around us, and beyond us,  
forever and ever.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### PRAYER TO BE SAID AT THE SOUND OF A SIREN

Grant courage to those who suffer,  
Strength and peace to those who help.  
Amen.

### PRAY ANYWAY

Who listens to our words when we pray?  
Perhaps no one.  
Will our prayers be answered? Probably not.  
What, then, shall we do?  
Pray. Alleluia! Amen. (KB)

An interesting fact: "If you are one of the many people who find music a profound, essential component of worship, it may interest you to know that the receptor site used in processing music is right next door to that area in the brain identified with religious experience—what neurologists sometimes call 'the God module.'" (p. 188)

## **Bill Chadwick is Reading cont'd**

**Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead. I knew about the Underground Railroad through history classes, but this novel brought to light a number of facets that were new to me. Emotionally heart-rending. It brought to mind something Pastor Jermaine said to me once, "It's a very different experience for African immigrants who have come to the US on their own volition, contrasted with those of us whose ancestors came through slavery."

I highly recommend the movie, **Same Kind of Different as Me**. A well-to-do married couple is transformed by their work in a soup kitchen and the wife's "adopting" a man who is homeless. As the husband learns of this man's life experiences that led him to where he is now, the husband's judgmental attitude is replaced by compassionate understanding. Based on a true story.

On my own time I thoroughly enjoyed the lightweight novel by Elizabeth Berg, **The Story of Arthur Truluv**. Because in my job I encounter so much heartache, for my personal entertainment, whether movies, TV or books, I try to stay away from violence, tragedy and dark themes. (The recent exception being the stunning movie directed by Jordan Peele, of Key and Peele fame, *Get Out*. Wowzer! So powerful and thought-provoking. But very violent.) *The Story of Arthur Truluv* traces the growing friendship between a misfit teen girl and an elderly, frail widower. Tender, heartwarming and inspiring.

Also on my own, I thoroughly enjoyed Steve Rushin's memoir, **Sting-Ray Afternoons**, about his growing up in Bloomington, about a half mile north of the Oak Grove Church building. While Rushin, an award-winning sportswriter for *Sports Illustrated*, is fifteen years younger than I am, the places he writes about and the experiences he relates, are so similar to my own childhood that it was a really fun read.

**The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame. Amazingly enough, I had never read this children's classic. I was looking for a little light reading, plus I felt like a cultural ignoramus not having read it or seen any plays or movies based on the book. Well, it certainly lived up to its subtitle, "A Story of Loyalty and Friendship." A real delight, with very little horrifying evil. And such splendid writing, winsome word choices...

On Mary Koon's recommendation I just finished a book that tells the story of Maine twins born in 1997, one a boy and one a transgender girl and the struggles their family went through. **Becoming Nicole**, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Amy Ellis Nutt, is tremendously heart breaking, heart warming, educational and well written. I strongly recommend each of you read it!

*See insert for what Pastor Mary is reading*



### **Work & Play on the AMEN House, St. Louis Mission Trip**

