

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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

September 2018

Dear Friends, it's always invigorating to get back into the fall swing of things, and, speaking of swing, we once again welcome the Barbary Coast Dixieland Jazz Band to lead worship on Rally Day, September 9, as we go back to two services, at 8:15 and 10:45. Bring your friends! The Opportunity Fair will once again take place between services, so you can sign up for lots of fun activities and opportunities to serve!

I am excited to dive into the New Testament with you as we continue our two-year Discipleship 101 Course. We begin Wednesday, September 19. 6:15-7:15 PM, but come for supper first at 5:45. Bring your friends! (Yes, it's a theme.)

In sermons in September and October we will be walking our way through an exposition of our new Vision/Mission Statement: "Oak Grove is a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God." (*This doesn't replace "Loving God...Changing Lives." It's an addition.*). Each week we will examine a different word or phrase. I can't wait! (BTW, Mary Koon will be back September 19. Can't wait for that, too!)

Our theme for the program year is "May the God of Hope Go with Us Every Day!" and our new ending song in worship is that one, number 765. It's an Argentine folk melody and the words are by Alvin Schutmaat, a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin America experience. Certainly, what the world needs now — every day — is HOPE. And we have that in the promises of God.

Faithfully, Pastor Bill



Rally Sunday is September 9. We celebrate our new program year by returning to two worship services (8:15 & 10:45 am) by welcoming Barbary Coast Dixieland Band. Join us for the Opportunity Fair (including cinnamon rolls made by our children and Sue Greimel!) that starts at 9:15.

Please let Ron Dubis (rojiti@aol.com) know if you need a table for something other than the Session committees.



The session has called a **congregational meeting** for the purpose of electing officers and next year's nominating committee for **Sunday, September 23**, following the 10:45 service. The following names will be placed in nomination, but nominations from the floor will be in order:

Deacons: Meg Robles, David Johnson, Stephen Jones, Jan Ahlquist, Bea Sorenson.

Elders: Bill Pomroy, Ann Klueh, Jane Propsom, Bob Heise, Mattie Hawley, and youth elder, David Wilkens.

Nominating Committee: Jim Carroll, Jody Milton, Paul St. Martin, Sarah Olson, Karen Diller, and Jen Myers.

New Member Inquiry classes are for those interested in learning more about Oak Grove and the Presbyterian Church with an interest in becoming a member. The next classes will be:

Sep 23 Noon - 2:00 pm. Lunch is provided. Please call the church office if you need childcare

Sep 30 9:30 - 10:00 am

Oct 7 9:30 am if you have decided to become a member, you will meet with Session and join that day at 10:45 worship.



Woodcutting at Clearwater Forest—

SAVE THE WEEKEND of Sep 28 - 30. We work hard and play hard. This is an amazing, inexpensive time up north that you will not want to miss with church family and friends. Contact Carrie Wilkens to sign up or for more info carriewilkens@comcast.net.

Upcoming Group Events

>**Tuesday, Sep 4, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew** Men's Fellowship at Zeke's. Pick up a friend who no longer drives and enjoy fellowship over lunch.

>**Monday, Sep 10, 5:00 pm, Singles** (*and anyone who wants the fellowship and fun*) meet at Zekes. No reservations needed!

>**Friday, Sep 14, 10:30 am, Singles** (*and anyone who wants the fellowship and fun*) will tour some nearby wineries. We'll meet at the church at 10:30 to carpool. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Call Jody Milton if you will attend (952-831-7325).

>**Monday, Sep 17, 6:30 pm, Men's Mentor Group** (*men of all ages who want to share ideas*) will be "Axe Throwing." More details to come.

>**Thursday, Sep 20, 11:00 am, Lunch Bunch Respite Care.** Your loved one will have fun with games and lunch at the church while you have the chance to have a couple hours to yourself.

>**Sunday, Dec 9, 2:30 pm, Oak Rovers** (*mature adults who enjoy fellowship*) go to **Wooddale Church Christmas Concert** — It's never too early to sign up for CHRISTMAS festivities! **Sign-ups will be in the narthex on Sundays Sep 23 & 30.** Tickets are \$15 per person – payment due at time of sign-up. Contact Nancy or Mike Hoaglund with questions (952-831-5180).

Oak Grove Blood Drive is September 25.

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.

Defibrillator Class/AED Training

Saturday, Oct 27, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. This class is open to all. If you are interested, sign up NOW by contacting Holly Mae Dredge at 952-831-5854.



Fall Clean-Up

...will be on **Saturday, October 27 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.** Bring your rakes and come help us get our church grounds in shape before the snow falls! Yes, we'll have coffee and treats to get you started and keep you going! We have great fellowship as we work together.

The Presbyterian Women Circles invite you to join us for our study beginning in September. This year's study is "God's Promise," a study of the Old and New Testaments showing examples of how God is with us through good and bad times as he promised. Two circles meet at the church, beginning in September:

- **Evening Star Circle** will meet on Tuesday, Sep 4 at 7:00 pm; contact Connie Nesbitt at 612-702-0684.
- **Goodrich-Nord Circle** will meet on Wednesday, Sep 12 at 8:45 am; contact Margaret Koch at 952-881-2582.

We'd love to have you join us!

The next Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting will be on Monday, Sep 10 at 1:30 pm. All women members of Oak Grove are invited and encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Lisa Pomroy

**Supportive
Housing Corner
Oasis for Youth**

The mission of Oasis for Youth is to open doors to housing, employment, education and wellness for youth facing homelessness in the suburbs. Oasis is celebrating 6 years of providing tools for stability and opportunities to thrive through individualized case management, onsite supportive services and connections to housing and community resources.

The supportive Housing Committee's 2018 budget is \$13,500. Of that, \$8,500 goes to Oasis for Youth for their Scattered-Site Housing Program. Oasis for Youth's Scattered Site Housing Program provides rental subsidy and case management support for youth ages 18 to 24 to make progress towards self-sufficient living. Youth are referred to the

Oasis for Youth Scattered Site Housing Program through the Hennepin County Coordinated Entry system. Oasis for Youth accepts single, pregnant and parenting youth into this program. Youth who are selected must be able to function independently.

Other services that Oasis for Youth provides include the Drop in Center (housed at Oak Grove) where there is a free clothes closet and hygiene/personal care products, food resources, laundry and showers, computer lab and Internet access, job-search assistance and educational support, transportation assistance, on-site mental health counseling, on-site legal aid, health, wellness and parenting support, referrals to government assistance and shelter and housing programs and case management and goal planning. They also have an outreach program in the Bloomington, Richfield and Edina high schools as well as a street outreach program. Oasis is currently assisting young people with finding and maintaining employment. They have a case manager on site at the Mall of America.

Oasis for Youth's annual celebration is September 20 at the Edina Country Club.

NAMIWalks for Mental Illness (*National Alliance for Mental Illness*)

Support NAMI Minnesota by supporting a team from Oak Grove for NAMIWalks on Sep 22. The walk is 5K in Minnehaha Park with check in at 11:00 am, speakers, and walk starts at 1 pm. Sign up to walk or give a donation! Pdon Pinkham or Cecelia Laurie will be in the Narthex the next few Sundays leading up to Sep 22 for sign up and/or information.

Last year, NAMI Minnesota reached over 28,000 people through education classes and presentations, including over 6,300 people through suicide prevention classes and over 9,600 teens through *Ending the Silence* program. In all, over **180,000 people were served through all of NAMI's programs**. The impact of these programs is huge; we've heard: "life-changing," "I now know how to help my daughter," "I don't feel so alone," and "I feel like I can help a person in crisis." NAMI is a trusted source of information for the media, and we work on passing bills to improve the mental health system every legislative session.

NAMI makes a difference in people's lives every day.

Alta Alonzi Update from Thailand

Due to the generosity of Oak Grove members, the Mission Committee is proud and excited to have \$3000 available to cover the transportation and medical expenses of Alta Alonzi (daughter of members Fred and Karen Alonzi) as she begins a year of mission work in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She was accepted in the Volunteers in Asia (VIA) Global Community Fellowship program and will be working with BEAM, an organization in Thailand helping Myanmar refugees earn their GED. VIA provides innovative experiential learning programs in Asia and the United States that promote cross-cultural understanding, build partnerships, and offer transformative experiences for the participants and the communities they serve. Alta has promised to keep us informed of her experiences in Thailand. Here are excerpts from her first update.

“I have been in Chiang Mai for one month now. For my first two weeks here, I underwent full-time training from VIA (<https://viaprograms.org/>) for cross-cultural communication, teacher roles and learning models, leadership, community building, and basic Thai lessons.

I have only just started working with the BEAM Education Foundation (<http://beamedu.org/>), but I have already learned quite a lot. At BEAM, I will be teaching 43 students English reading and writing skills to pass their GED exam for high school equivalency. My students are mostly migrants and refugees who have a high school diploma from schools in Myanmar or Thai refugee camps, but these high schools are not accredited and thus colleges will not accept them. Thus, our students study for the American GED so that they do not have to repeat 6 years of primary education.

It is not a perfect solution; the GED fee is quite high, and our students need to learn American social studies and other topics not really relevant to their situation. And as a new teacher, it is quite limiting to teach strictly for a test. BEAM is currently in discussions with the Ministry of Education in both Thailand and Myanmar to develop a better system. I attended one of their big meetings my first week on the job!

Fortunately, my students are very motivated to study hard and succeed. All of them have faced challenges with family, money, education, acceptance, visa issues, etc. but they still smile and work hard. Many of them also work full-time while studying and still approach me whenever they are off for extra tutoring. They already have quite high English communication skills, but most Burmese schools do not place much emphasis on critical thinking. Determining the main idea and central claim of a passage is still a challenge for many of my students.

I feel very blessed to have met the amazing people at Via, BEAM, and of course my awesome students. I am very excited for the rest of my year here in Chiang Mai. I will have so much more knowledge and experiences to share by the time I return. Thank you again for supporting me on this journey.”



Sunday, Sep 16, 9:15-10:15 AM — Professor Ned Mohan, an experienced, engaging speaker, well-received at Oak Grove 2 years ago, will be back to reintroduce us to "Hinduism" as part of our interfaith education.

Saturday, Sep 22, 10:15 AM — meet at the Hindu Temple, Maple Grove, for a guided tour of this uniquely beautiful place of worship and the option of staying afterward for a \$5.00 lunch of Indian food. You must sign up for this tour on a list located in the narthex where more detailed information will be available. Contact Karen Lignell, 952-681-7655, with any questions.

Sunday, Sep 23, 9:15 –10:15am — learn about the work of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), which is one of the very few organizations working inside Syria in besieged areas with their hospitals being targeted and bombed. They provide care to refugees in surrounding countries including Jordon, Lebanon and Turkey. In addition to the staff working in Syria full time, many American doctors and other medical staff serve for periods of time to help in this war torn area. In 2017 there were 733 volunteers who participated in 27 SAMS medical missions to the region and beyond, treating 22,457 vulnerable people. Our guest speakers will be Malia Remackel and Mohammad Mohkuli who will share their experiences.

Saturday, October 13, noon to 5 pm, OLD TIME PHOTO DAY in conjunction with Harvest Fest that takes place at the Old Town Hall inside and on their grounds. It'll be a time of socializing and sharing photos from the old days. Oak Grove will host tables for a variety of old time locations (such as Rainbow Foods, Dan Patch, etc.). At the Old Town Hall there will be pumpkin painting, a blacksmith, face painting, Johnny Appleseed, story teller, Gordon the Farmer, a pie eating contest and more. Watch for more info in the October Oak Leaves.



Children and Youth Ministry Volunteer Night,
Monday, October 1, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

We encourage all children and youth volunteers (Sunday School, Children's Church, Nursery Volunteers, WoW! leaders, Confirmation and youth counselors) to join us for a time of food, fellowship, team building and inspiration on October 1. We strongly recommend this time of fun and learning for anyone who is working with children this year. Please RSVP (and let us know of any dietary needs you may have) to Karen

Gerdes (bkgerdes@comcast.net; 952-884-5549) or Mary Koon (mkoon@oakgrv.org; 952-888-4621) by September 23.

Children's Ministry is missing 5 Children's worship bags...

Have you seen one? If so, please contact the church office (952-888-4621 or ogpc@oakgrv.org) to let us know where to look!



**The ACT Trial — An exercise and cognitive training study
for people with Mild Cognitive Impairment**

**Have you been told that you have Mild Cognitive Impairment?
Are you 65 years of age or older?**

You may qualify to participate in an 18-month exercise and cognitive training study. An exercise specialist will work with you to exercise and/or do cognitive training three times a week for six months, and then you will continue the activity on your own. Your memory, thinking, and fitness will be assessed 5 times, and your brain will be scanned 4 times over 18 months. Compensation will be provided. (Most participants will receive a free gym membership.)

To learn more about the study or to enroll, please contact:

Sue Greimel, Project Manager
Phone: 612-626-9490
Email: moone104@umn.edu

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Approved for use by UMN IRB
Effective on 11/13/2017
IRB Study Number: STUDY00001135

**Westminster Town Hall Forum — Tuesday, September 25,
Noon, Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News** with Clint Watts, former FBI special agent, specializing in cyber security terrorism and social media. He is currently Senior Fellow at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, George Washington University.
Free and open to the public. Westminster Presbyterian,
1200 Marquette Ave. Minneapolis.

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). **Our first meeting for this program year is Friday, September 8 at 9:00 am at Oak Grove.**

It's a fun way to get to know folks from PCA & Oak Grove and to get some work done on your crafting projects.

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

A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.

Future Dates (Second Saturdays unless noted)

Oct 13 at PCA
Nov 10 at OGPC
Dec 8 at PCA
Jan 12 at OGPC

Feb 9 at PCA
Mar 9 at OGPC
Apr 13 at PCA
May 11 at OGPC

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING: Security at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

A few months ago we formed a committee (imagine that) to evaluate the security/safety needs of our church in light of recent acts of violence across our nation in both churches & schools -- places where safety is expected and assured (except when it is not!). Our church is safe and will remain so. To confirm our trust in this, the Security Committee took actions that will give each of us an even greater feeling of “this is a safe place and I can relax with fellow believers in experiencing the love of our Lord and Savior.”

Actions that we have taken

- 12 security cameras have been added to the church property to monitor and record activities both inside and outside.
- Staff members have discussed *and* reviewed actions to take if they feel their safety may be at issue.
- Choir members and Sunday School teachers have and will be receiving further instruction on safety matters.
- Our Public Address System (for use in Emergencies) is being updated to meet our current needs.

If your interest and concern allow, there is a need for volunteers to monitor the viewing information from our cameras. The task is quite simple: view, stay alert, report any odd/suspicious activity. Volunteers simply sit in a small office and monitor the screens during church service. To volunteer, contact **Patty Nail** (952-835-2563; pattynail@gmail.com) or **Bob Nesbitt** (952-941-6166; bob13100@msn.com).

Security Committee: Patty Nail, Bob Nesbitt, Don Alman, Bob Gerdes and Rod Myers. Staff Advisor Bill Chadwick.

Your safety / our safety — of the utmost importance to all of us.

Financials

submitted by Sue Greimel

Through July 31	2018		Act vs Budg Fav/(Unfav)	2017 Actuals
	Actuals	Budget		
Income YTD	\$528,735	\$470,339	\$58,396	\$394,413
Expense YTD	\$480,201	\$466,815	(\$13,386)	\$400,181
Income – Exp	\$48,534	\$3,524	\$45,010	(\$5,768)

Congratulations!



Laurie Decknatel and Tyler Leonard were married on August 11.

Aydin Michael, baby boy, born August 20
to **Brandy Bliss** & Durrell Kirk.

Ruby Reatha McKinnon, born August 20
to Jessi & Brandon.



Grief Support Coalition

Thursdays Sep 27—Nov 15, 4:30 - 6:00 pm
St. Richard's Catholic Church
7540 Penn Ave S, Richfield, MN
612-869-2426 www.strichards.com

Date	Topic
Sep 27	<i>Is it Grief, or Something More?</i>
Oct 4	<i>The Mind-Body Connection</i>
Oct 11	<i>My Story</i>
Oct 18	<i>Dealing with Being Grief-Struck</i>
Oct 25	<i>How Grief Affects the Family System</i>

Condolences to family and friends of:

Joan Stanko died August 4. Her service will be Sep 8 at 11:00 am at Washburn-McReavy, 2300 W Old Shakopee Rd. Visitation begins at 10:00 am.

Gail Thompson, Fran Muller's sister, died August 15 in Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Robert (Van) Vanatta, died August 21. His service will probably be in late September.

September 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+)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Storm Holloway | 19 Sarah Oslund |
| 3 Patrick Fineran | 20 Bev Bliss; Emilie Christy |
| 4 Adonis Brandt*3; Heidi Schrad | 21 Katie Propsom*20; Larry Klueh |
| 5 Jacque Fletcher; Pierce Flanagan | 22 Morgen Gray; Tonya Lawrence |
| 6 Barb Hornnes; Norma Ritterspach | 23 Anne Mee; Eliza Schuchman*9; |
| 7 Bob Bruder**90; Everly Mee*1; | Kathy Grussing; Larry Thronson; |
| Macy McKinnon*4 | Mary Crampton |
| 10 Bob Alexander; Bob Crum | 24 Ken Hanson**98; Patsy Latourelle |
| 11 Amelia Krentz*2 | 25 Betty Lou Walker; Don Latourelle |
| 13 Jackson Marrone*17 | 26 Jennie Steskal; Vaughn Sheff |
| 14 Eric Duvall | 27 Bill Cross |
| 15 Anna Benz*19; Mike Benz*19; Ross | 27 Judy Harder |
| Brandt; Inez Pond**93 | 29 Bonnie Grussing; Carol Frechette; |
| 16 Jack Carlson | Jessi McKinnon; Jody Milton; Stacy Brand |
| 17 Pat Gleason; Sida Souvannasane | 30 Mike Steskal; Paige Arndt*6; Ruth Metzger |



News from former youth pastor, Jake Van Pernis, who has for the past several years served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Howard Lake, MN...

I have accepted the call of Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary, Alberta to be their Associate Pastor of Engagement and Service, starting in October. The foci of this ministry are:

- Engaging in the community around their needs, opportunities and passions;
- Inspiring Grace members to get involved outside our walls;
- Welcoming the risk and occasional failure that comes with partnering with others;
- Being a mirror of accountability to prevent vision drift and/or a return to “this is how we have always done it” thinking;
- Encouraging Beltline residents to participate in socially relevant work happening at Grace free from agenda or expectation that they share our faith or attend our worship; and
- Developing the skills of congregation members to participate in the work happening in the community.

I am excited about the position. I know it will bring new challenges as well as new opportunities to learn and grow as a pastor and person. I also am excited about Grace Presbyterian and the vision they have come to embrace from a very intentional discernment process. The direction they are taking with this position is, in my mind, a direction the church should be moving towards. And of course, Kate and I are excited to have the Canadian Rockies be only an hour away from us with lots of hiking, skiing (XC and Downhill), biking, paddling, and opportunities to explore close by.

Of course, we look forward to welcoming visitors to Calgary and visiting folks who come to enjoy Banff, Jasper, and Yoho!

Blessings, Jake

From the Green Committee

EV EXPO (Electric Vehicle) coming to Oak Grove Saturday September 15.

Co-sponsored by the American Lung Association, dealers will be bringing the latest models of EVs to see and test drive and there will be brief educational presentations about EVs. From 10 - 11 am there will be educational seminars about EVs and from 11 - 1 pm will be a chance to test drive a variety of vehicles, with dealers bringing new cars and a bunch of Oak Grovers with EVs also talking about their cars. Also, Tesla models will be on display as well as examples of electric vehicle chargers, electric bikes, scooters, mowers, snow throwers, trimmers and tools. We hope to do a ribbon cutting for our two new EV chargers. Plus, the youth will be providing a car wash.

Don't miss out on the chance to see what all the Tesla model 3 hype is about.
Ride in one and be cool - the acceleration is awesome!

Please spread the word and invite your friends and family.

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 - Noon

Oak Grove Staff

Ministers: **the 490 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
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Office Administrator:
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Financial Secretary:
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Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**
sgreimel@comcast.net

Clerk of Session:
Connie Nesbitt
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Child Care Provider:
Lacey Jones

Part-time Custodians: **Tim Dubis**
MartinAlan Smith

Parish Associates

Deb DeMeester
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2018 Per Capita is \$34.50