

# Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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Dear Friends:

As pastors we deal with every life issue. Here are some brief thoughts that may help you with people, including yourself, struggling with suicidal thoughts. Below is a link to a more thorough guide.

If you feel like committing suicide, treat it like a heart attack. Go to the emergency room of the nearest hospital.

Recently someone told me that what helped prevent him from taking his life are two things I told him some years ago, "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem" and "Your death will cause unimaginable pain to your family and friends. You just can't do this to them."

Take suicidal threats or even oblique references seriously and guide the person to receiving help. **SPEAK UP IF YOU ARE WORRIED and RESPOND QUICKLY.** The national suicide hotline number is 1-800- 273-TALK (8255). For more information: [www.helpguide.org/articles/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention-helping-someone-who-is-suicidal.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/articles/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention-helping-someone-who-is-suicidal.htm)

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With age comes wisdom. Most cultures of the world do a better job of passing wisdom on to the next generation than we do. I am excited to initiate an intentional **Men's Mentor Group** with some of our wise elders (speaking chronologically about "elders," not ecclesiastically) and our younger men (ages 25-35). We will meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 8:00-9:15 PM at church, starting February 27.

I have recruited a few older guys to share some of their wisdom regarding life— vocation, faith, finances, marriage, priorities, time management, etc. And all guys 25-35 (or thereabouts) are invited, and encouraged to bring their non-Oak Grove friends. I think it's going to be a tremendous opportunity for our men of different generations to get to know one another and our younger guys to get to know one another better. We'll try this for six months and then evaluate. Let me know if you have questions.

Faithfully, Pastor Bill



**Sunday School Preschoolers**

Deadline for the April 2017 Oak Leaves is - **March 15** - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

March  
2017

**OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN**  
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**Phone Fax**

(952) 888-4621 (952) 888-2523

**E-mail:** [ogpc@oakgrv.org](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org)

**Website:** [www.oakgrv.org](http://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 520 members**

Pastor **Bill Chadwick**

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

Assoc. Pastor

**Mary Koon**

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

Interim Assoc. Pastor

**Jermaine Ross Allam**

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Director of Music:

**Judy Cooper**

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

Office Administrator:

**Beth Angerhofer**

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Financial Secretary:

**Meghan Dooley**

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Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Kitchen Coordinator/Cook:

**Lori Magiera**

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**

[sgreimel@comcast.net](mailto: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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**Umo Udo**

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**Janet Shannon**

[janshannon1@comcast.net](mailto:janshannon1@comcast.net)

**2017 Per Capita = \$33.75**

**The Deacon's Bench** - We are pleased to announce that five new Deacons have joined the board: Judy Acker, Gene Dodge, Jim Goodermont, Larie Ann Schmidt, and Paul Sowers. We're excited to welcome them to our ministry as we plan for the new year's activities, including the annual Palm Sunday Brunch which falls on April 9 this year. Check out our article in next month's newsletter for more information about this fun and joy-filled (and delicious) event!

Some reminders as we begin the new year:


Included in the many committees that the Deacon Board coordinates is our Health Ministry which oversees Oak Grove's Medical Equipment Lending Service (located on the lower level). Various medical supplies (walkers, canes, crutches, shower seats, etc.) are available for check-out.

At the Deacon Bench table in the narthex, we have a variety of greeting cards, an updated prayer list, and a church directory (for use while at the "bench") to assist those who wish to send condolences, birthday wishes, etc., to others in the congregation. Simply leave the sealed, addressed envelope in the basket and the church office will provide the postage.

Thank you for helping the Deacons support our congregation!

**New Member Inquiry Classes** will be April 23, April 30, & May 7. If you're interested or want more info, contact Sandy at 952-888-2114 or [skcrum@centurylink.net](mailto:skcrum@centurylink.net).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**All Church Brunch**  
provided by the Deacons



Welcome

**A reminder from the Friendship Committee**

Everyone, please be aware of visitors. When you see someone with a yellow name tag or someone you don't recognize, invite them to join you for coffee and introduce them to other members. When you see someone sitting alone at a table, sit down with them or invite them to join you. You'll make new friends and help our visitors at the same time!

**Chancel Flower Openings**

Sign up on Sundays, March 5, 12 & 19 for both weekly chancel flowers and Easter flowers. Or contact Penny Nesbitt to claim a Sunday ([rpnesbitt@msn.com](mailto:rpnesbitt@msn.com) or 952-941-6166).



## March 2017 Preaching & Lectionary Schedule

### Preaching

Mar 1 Mary Koon (Ash Wednesday )  
Mar 5 Bill Chadwick  
Mar 12 Lisa Larges (guest preacher)  
  
Mar 19 Jermaine Ross Allam  
  
Mar 26 Bill Chadwick

### Lectionary

Luke 9:51-62 Jesus starts for Jerusalem  
Luke 10:25-42 Parable of the Good Samaritan  
  
Luke 15:1-32 Parables of lost sheep, coin, prodigal son.

### CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS!!

Our intergenerational orchestra will be playing on Easter Sunday, April 16. It's time to get your instrument out of its case, make sure it's in good working order, practice a wee bit, and be ready to join us!! We usually play a few prelude pieces and accompany three or four hymns.

We will have two rehearsals. Those will be on Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 am in the choir room downstairs and on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 in the sanctuary. I will be happy to get folders of music to you ahead of time... just let me know that you're planning to play.

To let me know you can play or if you have any questions, contact me at [jcooper@oakgrv.org](mailto:jcooper@oakgrv.org), 952-835-3783 or 952-250-9226). I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Cooper  
Director of Music



### Sunday School Preschool



### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Intergenerational Event — ALL Ages!

Saturday, March 11, 4:30 -6:30 pm  
in Chanhassen

Come join us as we spend a couple of hours to feed hungry children all over the world. Sign up in the hallway outside the Sanctuary or contact Mary Koon ([mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org); 952-888-4321)



From the Mission Committee

Oak Grove contributed \$9000 to Kwanzaa's Northside Women's Space for repairs after extensive damage to the basement due to flooding. Westminster Presbyterian Church contributed an additional \$6000. The basement repair work will start in the Spring after an assessment to prevent future flooding is completed.

Oak Grove contributed \$5000 to the Nonviolent PeaceForce for training to send volunteers to the North Dakota Standing Rock pipeline protest. The group's mission is to "protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies" and "build peace side-by-side with local communities". They are planning to send unarmed, nonviolent civilian protectors to Standing Rock to try to open constructive dialogue.

Dear Oak Grove Presbyterian Church family, families arrive every day with just a suitcase per person and hearts full of hope. Your 2017 in-kind donation assists in welcoming those fleeing persecution into new lives of freedom and opportunity. Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services aids refugees in navigating complex governmental and support systems. Thank you so much for sharing your blessings with our courageous refugee and asylee clients. Minnesota Council of Churches

Join us for the 2017 Race for the Cure!!

submitted by Sue Greimel

Sunday, May 14 7:30AM at Southdale. Meet by the water tower on France Ave & 69th St at 7AM – call Sue's phone (below) to find us!

- By March 31: Adults, \$26 (Kids 12 & under, \$13);
- April 1 - April 20: Adults, \$31 (kids, \$16);
- April 21 - May 13: Adults, \$36 (kids, \$18);
- May 14 Adults: \$40 (kids, \$20).



Register at: <https://www.crowdrise.com/TwinCitiesRaceForTheCure2017>. Make sure to select the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (Greimel) team!! T-shirts and goodie bags will be delivered to Oak Grove on Saturday, May 13. If you're interested in carpooling, please let Sue know.

Contact Sue Greimel with questions ([sgreimel@comcast.net](mailto:sgreimel@comcast.net); 612-805-2896()). If you can't join us, but would like to donate, here's the link: <https://www.crowdrise.com/OakGrovePresbyterianChurch>



## Upcoming Group and All-Church Outings

- >Thursday, Mar 2, Caregivers' Tea & Funtime Respite Care at 2:00 pm at the church.
- >Tuesday, Mar 7, Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship at noon at Zeke's in Bloomington.
- >Saturday, Mar 11, 4:30 pm, All Church Feed My Starving Children
- >Sunday, Mar 12, 2:00 pm, Intergenerational Outing (see below).
- >Sunday, Mar 12, 3:00 pm, Kid & Family Concert at church (see p 8).
- > Wednesday, Mar 15, 2:30 pm Donate & Do at VEAP (see below).
- >Thursday, Mar 16, Lunch Bunch Respite Care at 11:00 am at the church.
- >Saturday, Mar 18, Crafting with Apostles at Oak Grove.

## DONATE & DO

**Oak Grove Singles Group** (and anyone else!)  
"Donate and Do" for VEAP. Bring paper products and disposable diapers and help stock shelves at VEAP on Wednesday, March 15 from 2:30 to 5:15 pm.  
We will carpool from the church at 2:00 pm.  
Call Jane at 612-267-9068 for more information.

## March is Food Share Month!

This year, you will have two ways to contribute:

- Bring food or money for VEAP. Money is most preferred, as VEAP can utilize dollars better using bulk buying through Second Harvest and other distributors.
- Bring socks, granola bars and \$5.00 or \$10.00 gift cards for Subway or McDonald's to be used to make bags to hand to hungry people on the street. The Children are collecting these items and will bless them during Messy Church on April 23. Money is also welcome which we will use to purchase needed items!

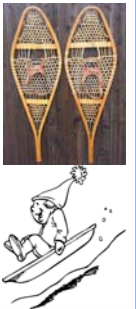
Please make sure to make a note on your check if you decide to contribute that way!

Thanks for your generosity!



## Intergenerational Outing (if there is snow)!

Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 pm. Meet at Richardson Nature Center in Bloomington to snowshoe, sled or kick sled on the pond. You can rent all equipment for \$5.00. Stay and enjoy hot cocoa and doughnuts. Bring your friends. Sign up March 12 – or just show up! Contact Jane Jacobson at 612-267-9068 or [sj.jacobson41@gmail.com](mailto:sj.jacobson41@gmail.com).



## Sunday School

**Adult Faith Formation** *(there are no Wednesday AFF activities during Lent; join Taize worship each week)*

**Mar 5** Keith Root will share the history, purpose and practice of Tai Chi. We will learn how this low impact body workout can become a part of our Shalom.

**Mar 12** Lisa Larges will share how and why she stuck with the PCUSA denomination when it took over 20 years to ordain and install her as a fully qualified pastor.

**Mar 19** Jermaine Ross Allam will start a three-part series exploring the Book of Daniel.

**Mar 26** Continuation of the three-part series on Book of Daniel

**We begin the season of Lent** on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Those who are able will gather for a simple supper at 5:45 and we will begin worship at 6:30 PM.

Each Wednesday evening during Lent we will again offer a quiet meditative service beginning at 6:30 and concluding around 7 PM. Again each week a member of the congregation will share for a few minutes about their personal faith journey. Last year we found that to be incredibly moving and inspiring.

“Lent” for some has very dark and negative connotations. In fact, the word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lencten,” referring to the lengthening of days. It is, indeed, a time for introspection and sober consideration of how well we are following Jesus. But that is positive. It is akin to preparing the soil in the spring to receive the seeds, which will ultimately be fruitful and beautiful. The more faithfully we observe Lent, the more joyous is our celebration of new life on Easter and throughout Eastertide.

Once again the Session has encouraged committees and other groups to cancel meetings and other events (when possible) to give people more time for personal preparation and to participate in the Wednesday service. Lenten devotional ideas from the SALT folks, similar to what we used in Advent, will be available.

The Worship and Music Committee is planning this year to invite four outside preachers (instead of our usual one or two per year, plus the occasional pulpit exchange with our sister churches) to help us hear other voices that will stretch us. On Sunday, March 12, we will have in our pulpit the Reverend Lisa Larges, a VERY gifted preacher and one of the pastors of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. She will also be leading the AFF that morning, sharing her story of perseverance over 20+ years of seeking ordination within the Presbyterian Church.

### Children’s Ministry



**Save the dates!**  
**For children 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade,**  
**M - F, *June 19-23*, 9 am – Noon**

**Kids’ Ga-ga Lock-in – March 24/25!**

Elementary children are invited to join us for a lock-in at church on Friday, March 24, 6 pm until Saturday, March 25 at 8 am. \$10.00 fee will cover a pizza supper and breakfast! To sign up or for questions, contact Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org) or Jennie Steskal (jenmary36@hotmail.com).

**Songs for You & Me Live!**

Brandon and Jessi McKinnon are sponsoring a FREE concert for all ages on March 12 at 3:00 pm. The concert will feature both original music and well-known family favorites.

The concert will be in the sanctuary at Oak Grove. There will be a free-will donation. Bring your family and friends! Hope to see you there!

Contact Jessi at [jessi.mckinnon89@gmail.com](mailto:jessi.mckinnon89@gmail.com) with questions.

## March Nursery Volunteers

<b>Mar 5</b> Erin Norris Seth & Allison Thomas	<b>Mar 19</b> Cindy St. Martin Leslie Jones
<b>Mar 12</b> Elise & Sean Kelly Laura & Eugene Orr	<b>Mar 26</b> Beverly Bliss Jeanine Radtke

## Presbyterian Women Circle News

**Circle News** – *Evening Star* meets Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 pm at the church; call Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810. *Goodrich-Nord* meets Wednesday, March 8 at 8:45 am at the church; call Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577.

**Next Coordinating Team Meeting**, Tuesday, March 7 at 8:30 am. Business meeting will begin at 9:00. All women members of the church are encouraged to attend.

## Westminster Town Hall Forum, Tuesday, March 21, Noon

*Media in the Age of Misinformation*

**Frank Bruni**—Award-winning journalist and bestselling author. Op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*, focusing on Washington politics, higher education, and the American landscape.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is at 12th St. & Marquette Ave, in Minneapolis. Parking is available in the area lots. Town Hall Forum presentations are free and open to the public.

Bloomington Public Schools **100th Birthday Party & All-School Reunion**  
Friday, May 19, 2017, Bloomington Doubletree Hotel, 7800 Normandale Boulevard

6 pm Social Hour • 7 pm Dinner • 8 pm Live entertainment featuring *The Classics Big Band* & *Nostalgics Vocal Quartet*. Special early-bird prices: \$50/person thru February 28; after that, \$75/person, \$130/couple. Register at [bloomingtonschools.org/centennial](http://bloomingtonschools.org/centennial). Event proceeds benefit the Education Foundation of Bloomington and our student-focused programs.



## Financials

*submitted by Sue Greimel, Treasurer*

Through Jan 31	2017		Act vs Budg	2016
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
<b>Income YTD</b>	\$58,972	\$58,680	\$292	\$69,586
<b>Expense YTD</b>	\$45,171	\$62,468	\$17,297	\$48,795
<b>Income – Exp</b>	\$13,801	<b>(\$3,788)</b>	\$17,589	\$20,791

We ended 2016 with ~\$14K more in income than we anticipated, allowing us to beat our projected budget by ~\$20K. While we still ended the year in the red (~\$23K), gains from our operating reserve (\$18.8K) offset the bulk of the deficit. January is off to a great start, as well, with Income right on, and expenses under by \$17.3K. Thank you for giving so generously and watching your spending!!

## March 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 Don Decknatel; Rosalie Johnson	17 Jim Lignell; Connie Nesbitt; Laura Orr
2 David Johnson	18 Joan Stanko
3 Julie Doxsie	19 Mary Crow**92; Nancy Hauser;
5 Arnie Erickson**90;	Myles Johnson*3; Dan Marrone;
Emmanuel Boateng*20; Stephen Tolvstad	Greg Wenz; Allison Wruck
6 Margaret Comstock**89	20 Patsy Fisk
7 Ruth Dukelow; Laurie Grussing;	22 Alexander Johnson*5
Jane Propsom	23 Christie Rossow; Lynette Severson
8 Art Fisk	25 John Kim; Rich Price
9 Anne Byers; Corinne Hanson**86;	26 Edna Himrich**96
Nana Yaw Kwarteng Tutuwaa*17;	27 Holly Mae Dredge; Kathy Howell;
Madelyn Rossow*7; Emma Wasko*21	Svea Kanne**96; Maren Karow; Bob Nesbitt;
10 Troy Bassett*20; Jack Wenz*15	Austin Ritterspach
12 Heidi Schuchman	28 Enid Lang; Michelle Minea; Fran Muller;
14 Seth Thomas	Sue Powers
15 Marian Schwartz**87	29 Jacob Deters*9; Jim Goodermont
16 Dottie Norris*4; Cara Scotting**85	30 Chuck Mikkelson; Phyllis Pettit**95

### Condolences to family and friends of:

**Esther Morgan**, Jeanette Dunham's aunt, died Jan 18.  
**Jim Darnel**, relative of Rod Myers, died in Illinois.  
**Ruth Kohnen**, Dee Schneider's sister, died Jan 22.  
**Mary Chadwick Miller**, Bill's sister, died Feb 3  
**Lynn Goodwin**, Gordon's brother, died Feb 5.  
**Elizabeth Vanatta**, died Feb 7.  
**Chuck Borsos**, Nancy Hauser's father-in-law, died Feb 11.  
**Mary Alice Klueh**, Larry's mom, died Feb 18 in Indiana.  
**Clint Kobeska**, Dianne Lawson's nephew died suddenly.

### Thank You, Oak Grove

Hi Beautiful Oak Grovers! I put a call out for donations for Dakota Access Pipeline and for baby supplies for Alix and her family from Togo. You responded mightily! Thank you, thank you! *Kris Jacobson*

### From Pastor Bill about Potential Child Care Assistance

Thanks so much to the "seasoned" folks who volunteered to help our younger folks with child care on occasion (follow up to the sermon on Sabbath. If you would like to get the list of volunteers with phone numbers and email addresses (or would like to add your name to the volunteer list) please contact Beth at [ogpc@oakgrv.org](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org) or 952-888-4621.





**Oak Grove is honored by  
Bloomington Schools  
Homework Connection**



**2017 Men's  
Retreat at  
Clearwater  
Forest**



**Great fun was had at the Hoedown Square Dance!**

*Branching Out, featuring...*

– from the Multicultural Committee

**Marleen Singhrai...** was born in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. Her great-grandparents came to Guyana from India. Guyana has six races of peoples: East Indians, Africans, Chinese, Amerindians, Europeans and Portuguese. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in the continent of South America. Marleen is the ninth child in her family of eleven -- with six brothers and four sisters.

Guyanans respect seniors and elders, and always greet them by saying “good morning,” “good day” or “good night” anytime you pass by them. Close friends and family are greeted with a kiss, hug or handshake. As a tradition whenever someone comes to your house, you invite them to have a seat, offer something to eat or drink and chat.

Christmas Day is a special day for everyone whether you are Christian, Muslim or Hindu. Everybody celebrates with family, friends, elders and seniors who live alone. Christmas carols can be heard everywhere. Special foods, drinks and cakes are enjoyed on Christmas Day. Foods including lamb curry, rice, dal puri (Indian fried bread), pepper pot (made with beef, pork and spices), cassareep (a special sauce made from cassava root and other basic ingredients) served with bread, and garlic pork (pork chops pickled for several days in vinegar, salt, hot peppers, garlic, and thyme -- on Christmas Day you drain it and fry the meat). A favorite beverage is ginger beer, a drink made from ginger root, spices and sugar. Sweets include black cake (made with many different kinds of dried fruits which have been ground and preserved in alcohol for a few days before using), pound cake or sponge cake.

Christmas is one of the best holiday celebrations in Guyana. Celebrating starts on Christmas morning and end the next day -- Boxing Day.



**Lunch Bunch Monthly**

**Respite Care Group**