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Oak Hill News



No. 03

MARCH 2014

Volume 64

Making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Pastor's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of the Oak Hill News to go (almost) paper-free! Most of you will be reading this as an email attachment, or on our website at www.oakhillpcusa.org. Some will receive it in the mail, and others will be picking up a paper copy at the church. This new format will save paper, as we continue to work to be good stewards of the earth's resources. It will save time since there will be far fewer than 200 copies to reproduce and fold, and it will save money on postage. Best of all, the newsletter will now be available for anyone who visits our website to read, helping us spread the good news of worship, mission and fellowship to a larger audience. We will not be including personal information such as phone numbers, email addresses, or birthdays in the newsletter, so we can safeguard church members' privacy.

Did you know that nearly 80% of people who are looking for a church to attend use the internet for their search? While some still ask friends or drive around their neighborhood to find a place to worship, the vast majority will go online. There's a lots of ways to do this, of course. If someone is specifically looking for a Presbyterian church, they can go to www.pcusa.org, where on the home page they will find a place to type in a city, state and/or zip code in the "Find a Congregation" box. When I typed in 63116, Oak Hill popped up first on the list! And fortunately for us, when I typed in St Louis, we came up 5th in the list--on the first page of

churches listed. More general searches using a search engine like Google tend to list churches alphabetically, so we come up a bit later in those lists.

Providing as much information as possible on our website, and keeping it up to date, is vitally important today. Having interesting and timely photographs also makes our website more appealing and informative to church members, visitors, and "church shoppers!"

While we need to be informed and responsive to the use of the internet in finding a church, we have to remember that people who come to Oak Hill will only come back if they receive a warm welcome from people who are genuinely interested in them. And then they need to feel welcome to participate in the life of the church. They want to know that we are active and involved in the community, and that we practice what we preach! When they do come back, it is so important that we remember they were here before, and that we invite them to a specific event--maybe it will be a potluck supper with AMEN St. Louis, a fellowship event like the Easter egg hunt or the pancake supper to raise funds for Isaiah 58. The key is to make the invitation, and with it, a personal connection.

Here at Oak Hill, visitors consistently tell me they received these warm welcomes. Let's continue to share the good news of Christ with love and joy!

Grace and peace,

Kathy



The Bulletin Board

Shrove
Tuesday



The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper hosted by Isaiah 58 Ministries will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, at Oak Hill Church. Pancakes, eggs, ham and sausage will be served. Beverages include orange juice, milk and coffee. There will be Mardi Gras-themed activities after dinner. A free will offering will be taken.



An ecumenical Ash Wednesday service will be held at Oak Hill on March 5 at 7:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON
MARCH 16, 2014**

The Stewardship and Property Commission will serve corned beef and cabbage as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day at our March fellowship luncheon on Sunday, March 16. (A kid's meal will also be provided.) You don't need to bring anything, just come and enjoy! A free-will offering will be collected to defray expenses. This will replace the first Sunday potluck luncheon.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

During Lent, the Adult Sunday School Class will be studying each Sunday's Lectionary readings and will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers. All adults are invited. The class will meet during the Sunday

School hour, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Theleos Room. The list of readings appears in the monthly newsletter, and the next Sunday's readings will also appear in the bulletin each week during Lent. You are invited to read and think about the readings ahead of time, but please come to the class even if you have not yet read them.

Also, if you would like to lead an adult Sunday school class discussion in the weeks following Easter using the Thoughtful Christian curriculum, please contact Kim Smith to choose a Sunday and a topic. Materials are provided.

Ebony Heritage Singers Saturday, March 8, 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars and help welcome the Ebony Heritage Singers to Oak Hill! Under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Donna Cox, the Ebony Heritage Singers from the University of Dayton will be sharing their gifts in our community with a performance at Oak Hill, **Saturday evening, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.** The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken to thank the group and help them offset their travel expenses. For more information you may visit their website:

<http://ebonyheritagesingers.wordpress.com>

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We have received 184 matches from the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection, and our Ministry Information Form has been viewed 450 times on line. Of the 184 matches, 33 have been self-referred, meaning that those pastors were impressed by our MIF, wanted us to look at their Pastor Information Form (PIF) and tell them if we were interested in them. We have studied 58 PIFs from across the United States, and we have had some type of correspondence or conversation with 36 pastors. We feel we are making good progress in our search and look forward to the day we can share more specific information with the congregation.

The PNC--Peggy Barrow, Donna Cook, Josh Smith, Janet Stanford, and Will Woodward

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Timely Topics

The February meeting was led by Rev. Carleton Stock. He gave us information about greening the church which you may hear about in future months. The March meeting will take place on the third Sunday. Those who are interested in hearing about the legislative activities of Metropolitan Congregations United will want to be sure to attend the Timely Topic event on March 16th as soon as you have finished lunch. Timing for legislative activity is extremely important. Come find out how you can help.

Faith Outreach Ambassadors

The Alzheimer's Association has created a program where a church may select and train volunteers to help all members become aware of various opportunities for those struggling with cognitive challenges. As of February, there are 115 churches in the St. Louis area that have faith outreach ambassadors. Mary Lou Woodward of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church has received the initial training. She would be pleased to visit with you about the various programs currently available in our area. If you would like to have such training, please contact her.

SSPCU MEETING

Thanks to the weather, the SSPCU meeting was rescheduled several times. A few folks managed to get to St. Andrews Tuesday, February 18. Several ideas for getting publicity about SSPCU were discussed. Having combined activities for all five churches is a priority. Curby has invited members of all five churches to attend their picnic on Sunday, June 1, at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park right after church. Curby's new minister Pastor Paula Cooper was welcomed. This was her very first function. Watch for announcements about Pastor Cooper's ordination at Curby. All of us have been invited. The next meeting of SSPCU will be held on Tuesday, April 22, at Curby.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming fellowship events:

March 16 - after church. Corn beef and cabbage pot luck luncheon, hosted by the Stewardship and Property Committee.

March 16 - after lunch. Timely Topics - MCU

March 22 - 8 p.m. - Band Together. Our own Valery York-Schneider is one of the announcers this year.

March 23 - 3 p.m. - Youth Symphony. Tickets can be purchased for \$1.

MCU News

"... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah, 29:7

Those words in Jeremiah are a good summary of the mission of Metropolitan Congregations United. MCU is an interfaith organization whose mission is committed to acting powerfully in the public arena in order to transform our congregations and our community. We believe that, individually and together, our congregations have a right and responsibility to act for the common good at the local, regional and state level.

MCU is off to a busy start. At our Membership Assembly in January we highlighted the issues we feel called to work on this year. They are:

- 1) Medicaid Expansion – MCU is committed to seeing Medicaid eligibility expanded in Missouri in 2014. This literally life-saving measure has already been passed in 25 states and the District of Columbia, and if passed here would allow almost 300,000 hard-working Missourians access to basic health care. According to the Regional Commerce and Growth Association it will also have major economic benefits for Missouri in the area of health care jobs, and increased state revenue. Given that Missouri ranks 39th in the nation on key health measures such as cardiovascular deaths, cancer deaths, diabetes, childhood immunizations, premature death and infant mortality rate, we can't afford to take another year to decide on this measure.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (cont'd)

- 2) Ban the Ban – MCU is working to end the lifetime ban on Food Stamps for individuals convicted of a drug felony. The 1996 Federal Welfare Reform Law singled out drug related felonies but not other felonies (not even rape or murder) for this ban. Federal law allows states to “opt-out” of the ban and 41 other states already have. MCU wants Missouri to do the same because the lifetime ban lessens the likelihood of drug felons re-entering society. Banning the Ban will also increase federal funds coming into Missouri and positively impact local grocery stores and other businesses.

- 3) Education – MCU is following legislation in Jefferson City relating to public schools and transfers from unaccredited school districts. We are working to ensure that any new regulations meet each of these principles--
Rebuild unaccredited school districts with equitable funding, pre-kindergarten, small class sizes, and support services for children and families. **Preserve** local control of all school districts with parent and community involvement and a moratorium on privatization strategies. **Sustain** ALL school districts with full funding of the Foundation Formula, attainable standards for students, teachers and schools and de-emphasis on standardized testing as the sole measure of success.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Stewardship and Property Committee (S&P) is having a work day on Saturday, March 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will meet in the kitchen of the church where S&P will provide doughnuts and coffee. The focus will be on assisting with clean-up of the AMEN House and Educational Building and removing items that were damaged in the great flood of 2014. If you

have any questions, please see Will Woodward or Carolyn Moody.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission at Oak Hill -March 2014

Potluck Tuesday, March 11

Join us as we welcome the visiting mission team from Western Kentucky University Wesley Foundation, at a potluck dinner on Tuesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided by the Wednesday night small dinner group hosted by Heather Beckmann and Lisa Thompson. Come for dinner and visit with our first mission trippers for 2014. Bring a side dish to share if you are able. Come with an appetite and conversation!



Potluck Saturday, March 22

Our visiting intergenerational spring break group from McKinley PCUSA, Champaign, Illinois, will be at AMEN St. Louis, March 29 - March 26. We will host them for dinner on Saturday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. Several individuals have volunteered for various portions of the meal, but we still need a main dish! Let us know if you can help out. Funds are available to reimburse you for meal expenses. Once again, join us for dinner and conversation and welcome our visiting guests! Bring a side dish to share if you are able. Contact Donna Cook if you are willing to volunteer.



Room at the Inn, March 29

Our volunteer form is filling up fast! Thanks so much for your enthusiasm about this mission. We will be hosting 10 clients from Room at the Inn overnight at AMEN House. Join us for dinner and visit with our guests Saturday evening. Sign up sheets are on the table in the small assembly room next to the kitchen.



MISSION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

We still need blankets, towels, new pillows and pillow covers and wash cloths for our visiting guests to use during their time with us. Contact Dena Roper or Donna Cook with any questions.



Message from the Isaiah 58 Buddies!

Just as we thought winter might never end, it's almost time to think about coloring Easter eggs and singing songs about Peter Cottontail!

Before we get all excited about the Spring thaw, the Buddies want to express our gratitude for your awesome help through this really tough winter. For some of our friends at Isaiah 58, it's been a struggle just to keep the heat on. So the hugeness about the food you share is hard to describe. You have made this winter a bit more bearable. Food nourishes the body; and knowing that someone cares nourishes the heart.

The Buddies invite you to share any of the following foods in March and April.:

March

- 1st Sunday:** Macaroni and Cheese (boxed)
2nd Sunday: Green Beans (canned)
3rd Sunday: Vanilla Wafers (boxed)
4th Sunday: Banana Pudding (boxed)
5th Sunday: Cereal (boxed)

April

- 1st Sunday:** Spaghetti & meatballs (canned)
2nd Sunday: Green Peas (canned)
3rd Sunday: Biscuit/Baking Mix (boxed)
4th Sunday: Pancake Syrup (plastic bottle)

As always: it's a real convenience for our friends when the cans have tab top openings, but not a necessity.

It's all about sharing our food with others.

Thanks for your generous spirit!

Your Isaiah 58 Buddies,
Blue Lucy, Purple Betty, and Salmon Eli

Questions? Ask Valery York-Schneider

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their February 12, 2014, Stated Scheduled Meeting:

The average worship attendance in January was 89.

Membership as January 31, 2014 is 139.

Financial Report for January & Year-to-Date 2014

	January	2014 Total
Income		
Budgeted	\$14,542.00	\$14,542.00
Actual	\$16,549.59	\$16,549.59*
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$17,511.33	\$17,511.33
Actual	\$19,704.18	\$19,704.18

*Does not include stock gift currently valued at \$10,500.

Session approved giving \$250 to the Presbytery to help fund the Mound Ridge Auction Team Benefit Dinner.

Session approved hiring Brendan Gregory for the AMEN St. Louis Summer Site Coordinator position at a rate of \$12 per hour for up to 12 weeks.

Session approved the Mission Committee hosting a Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on April 23 with proceeds going to fund the Room at the Inn project at Oak Hill.

Session approved serving the Lord's Supper on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at Oak Hill.

Session approved renewing a \$20,000 CD with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

Session approved Isaiah 58 Ministries having a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Oak Hill on March 4.

Session approved the Ebony Heritage Singers having a concert at Oak Hill on March 8. A free willing offering will be received.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Session approved Oak Hill taking a One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, a Peacemaking Offering, and a Christmas Joy Offering at Oak Hill in 2014.

Session approved purchasing two new computers for the church office for the pastor and secretary.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please join us for the Presbyterian Women's spring meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 11:00 a.m. We'll meet in the Theleos Room and discuss what Presbyterian Women might be doing at Oak Hill during this year. Bring a sandwich and join us for lunch if you have time. Salad, dessert and chips will be furnished.

Circle 2 will meet for dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at Mariachi's II, 4625 Gravois Road. If you would like an evening of fellowship and good conversation, please join us.

BOOK CLUB

There is a change of venue for the Tuesday, March 11, meeting of book club. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Faith and Fellowship Room to discuss "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor. This will allow members to attend the 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner with our visiting Mission Team from Western Kentucky University who will be staying in the AMEN House. Book club members may still bring their "fast food" dinners to enjoy during the book club meeting if they do not attend the pot luck dinner.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Members of the congregation are invited to join the Adult Fellowship Club at the Band Together Holiday Concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at the Des-

mond Lee Concert Hall at the 560 Music Center, 560 Trinity Avenue, at the western end of the U. City Loop. Our very own Valery York-Schneider is an M.C. Admission is free. Applause and donations are greatly appreciated. Please also join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Fitz' at 6605 Delmar Boulevard before the concert.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

Craft Night

Please join us for a "bring your own craft" night on Friday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. There will be snacks and a good time. Look for next month's newsletter where there will be information about a field trip. Contact Dena Roper for more information.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Oak Hill Presbyterian

Mission Trip Youth Trivia Night

Saturday, April 12th: 6pm to 10pm

Register by **April 1st \$10 per person**

After April 1st, \$15 per person

Forms are located at the back of the church. Soda and popcorn included, plus raffles and activities

Individual registrations are fine too. We'll help you find a table that needs additional brilliant minds. We encourage you to bring your youth. Questions, contact Marion Hollander or Christine Woodward.

**LECTIONARY
MARCH**

Sunday, March 2	Exodus 24:12-18; <i>Psalm 2 or Psalm 99</i> ; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9
Ash Wednesday, March 5	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58:1-12; <i>Psalm 51:1-17</i> ; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday, March 9	Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; <i>Psalm 32</i> ; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11
Sunday, March 16	Gen. 12:1-4a; <i>Psalm 121</i> ; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
Sunday, March 23	Exodus 17:1-7; <i>Psalm 95</i> ; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
Christmas Eve, March 30	1 Sam. 16:1-13; <i>Psalm 23</i> ; Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41



Moses was a prophet and lawgiver for God's chosen people, the Israelites. What does the name Moses mean in Hebrew?

- A. "Out of the water"
- B. "Giver of the Law"
- C. "Prophet"
- D. "God is good"



Answer: See Exodus 2:10

Oak Hill News

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church,
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www.oakhillpcusa.org

office@oakhillpcusa.org

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are
always expected!

Christian Education - 10:00 a.m.

Service of Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Nursery Care – 11:00 a.m.

The ministers of Oak Hill Church are its members
assisted by:

The Rev. Kathy Riley
Interim Pastor

Ms. Susan Brown
Minister of Music

Ms. Carole Adams
Secretary

Articles for publication
in the
Oak Hill News
need to be
submitted in writing
to the church office by the
3rd Monday of each month.

