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# Oak Hill News

No. 02

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Volume 72

*With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve and grow.*

## *A Message from Pastor Alan*

Dear Oak Hill Friends,

(Warning! You may have already heard something like this recently, if you were at the January Session meeting or at Bible study last week. But it doesn't hurt to hear it again. See Philippians 3:1b.)

"There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**" (1 Corinthians 12:6-7, NRSV, emphasis mine). "The common good" – what a powerful phrase!

The apostle Paul has been writing in this passage about all the many and varied "gifts" – that is, abilities to do things – which members of the church have been given and which they demonstrate in the various "activities" of their life together. I'm sure he would not limit his list of gifts to the ones he explicitly mentions here. He would certainly include the kinds of gifts we see exhibited by the members of Oak Hill Church – for example, gifts of financial management, careful record keeping and secretarial services, musical gifts, artistic gifts, understanding of electronic communications, and so on, and on, and on. Our members have too many gifts to mention them all here, including the gift of simply being there in worship on Sundays, in person or via Zoom.

The point Paul makes in these verses, and which I would like to make too, is that every one of these gifts is given "for the common good." That is, God does not intend that the abilities granted to any individual be used solely for that individual's own benefit or profit. God's gifts are to be used with the good of all

in mind, in the service of our common life. The Greek word in the New Testament translated "common good" comes from a word meaning "to bear together." We all join in bearing or carrying on the life of our community, to make that life possible. No one does it alone or solely for that one's own benefit – we do it together for the benefit of all.

What Paul is saying here about the church is, I am sure, true of any healthy human community. The members of a society always need to look beyond their own good to the good of all. For example, this is a necessary part of the motivation we have to get ourselves vaccinated against COVID-19 and to wear masks when advisable. We hear people say that vaccinations and masks are purely a matter of personal choice, and that it is no one else's business whether I do these things or not. But surely, the common good is everyone's business, and no one is serving the common good by going unvaccinated and unmasked and risking getting and spreading the virus. Looking to the common good seems to be the way to lead an ethical life. It is certainly the way a follower of Jesus should seek to live.

May the Lord continue to bless with many gifts our life together in Oak Hill Church.

Your Oak Hill amigo,  
Alan Meyers

## WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*By Matt Hanify*

### **Worship**

This conversation might feel familiar. COVID numbers are trending in the right direction, but we haven't turned the corner yet – not as a community and not as a congregation. In light of that, we are continuing to worship online, via Zoom, at least for the first Sunday in February. After that, the Session will meet to determine next steps. It's not that we want to do this, but we feel we must. So, check out our website or our Facebook page – I don't think we have a MySpace account – to see if and when we are returning to in-person worship. Also, the weekly bulletin is located in the “Worship at Home” section of our website, on the left side of the homepage. Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., on Zoom for the first Sunday in February at least (meeting ID 768 992 383)

### **Communion**

Communion will be celebrated February 6. Please be ready with something at home for communion: something to drink and something to eat. I personally lean toward leftover French toast, but I am a bit of a rebel. You should feel free to be ready with whatever works in your household. For our skeleton crew in the sanctuary that tries to make the service proceed smoothly, we have individualized portions of bread and drink.

We are also offering in-home communion for our online worship participants. Please mention it in the Zoom chat or let the church office know, and we will make the necessary arrangements.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday school starts up again on February 6 at 9:30 in the morning on Zoom for adults and children. We hope to return to in-person classes similar to in-person worship, but until then, this will have to do. Both children and adults will be following the “Feasting on the Word” for Sunday school, which is a lectionary-based curriculum. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. on Zoom: (meeting ID 768 992 383)

### **Volunteering**

You seem like the kind of person who likes to help – get in there, get your hands dirty, provide assistance where assistance is needed. Well, this is the church for you. We need greeters (when we return to in-person worship) and liturgists (which we need all the time). We have a nursery for children third grade and younger, which needs volunteers (again, once we return to in-person services). That involves some paperwork, but we are happy to help you with that. Just let us know. Alternatively, on the church's website, oakhillpcusa.org, under the “Worship” tab, is a Sign-up Genius link that contains volunteer opportunities. Your efforts are welcome, as are you just generally.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesday Bible study will continue to follow lectionary readings. Classes are at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays on Zoom (meeting ID 259 777 226, Password: Disciple).

## EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*By Stephanie Hoegger*

E & M met on January 5 to plan our activities and agenda for the year. We also welcomed our new member, Valery Welch, to the team.

In keeping with the temporary move to increased social distancing, our first activity of the year will be an outdoor one: we are updating the Art Wall with a new theme, “Share your hearts!” We hope this will help us stay connected as a community while also staying safe.



## EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (cont'd)

### **Calling All Artists!**

It's time to update the Art Wall, located outside of the sanctuary along Oak Hill Avenue. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Evangelism & Membership will be sponsoring a new theme: "Share Your Hearts!" Like past displays, we will decorate the wall with canvases of individual artwork. Everyone is invited to contribute their own uniquely designed valentine! All skill levels welcome and encouraged. Blank canvases can be picked up from a newly installed yellow box next to the Art Wall. Drop off your completed canvas in the same yellow box. We will add your work to the wall for everyone to enjoy.



In December, E & M helped host the time of outside fellowship on Christmas Eve. We served hot cocoa, coffee, and cookies to folks after the evening service. We were grateful for the warm weather. It made for an especially nice evening to share in the celebration of Christ's birth.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*By Donna Cook*

### Greetings from "Mission and Justice"

#### **Winter Outreach in its various forms**

We are continuing to provide meals and sandwiches for our friends at Winter Outreach. Please keep those volunteers and the folks they serve in your prayers. Thank you for your help with twin blankets and hand warmers. They have been delivered to Mokabees for

the Winter Outreach Volunteers to share with folks on the street.

#### **Happenings at AMEN-St. Louis**

Currently we have 8 Summer Groups Scheduled from Geneva, Iowa; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Ladue Chapel, St. Louis; 2 different groups from Chicago; Prairie Village, Kansas; Wichita Falls, Texas; and Dallas, Texas. We have a Boy Scout Troop from Independence, MO (a repeat visitor) planning a long weekend in March.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we reconnect with our partner agencies, re-establish, and make new connections with presenters; our mission trip groups as they prepare to travel, and for our ministry to be able to operate this season. As everyone knows, all our plans are dependent on Covid numbers throughout all our communities. Prayers for patience, flexibility, and high vaccination rates and low positivity rates throughout.

#### **Presidents' Day Mission Project**

Join us on Monday, February 21, 2022, from Noon – 2 PM for a mission project or two.

We'll have a drive by neighborhood food drop off for Isaiah 58 Ministries. In addition, will fill water bottles with laundry detergent for I58, make go bags for our own outreach and tied blankets for various groups and do a meal prep or two for the Grace Women's Shelter. We'll spread out in the Smylie Room and Large Assembly Room. Watch for a Sign-Up Genius coming soon in the weekly update. Masks required.

#### **Metropolitan Congregations United**

Thanks to everyone who could make it to the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 18. We will all be moving forward to work to increase voter participation and for restorative justice for our children, schools and neighborhoods. More information can be found here: <https://mcustlouis.org>

Watch for the weekly email from the office for more information about Mission & Justice.

**Your Isaiah 58 Shopping List** (For when we return to in person worship or drop off at I58 , 10-1, M-F. Or contact Donna for porch pick up.)

## MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

### February 2022

6th - Sardines  
13th - Your favorite spice  
20th - Mac and Cheese  
27th - Dish Soap

### March 2022

6th - Canned Chili  
13th - your favorite condiment (plastic bottle, please!)  
20th - dried or canned beans  
27th - toilet paper

Monetary donations are welcome as well, you can donate to Isaiah 58 through the church's giving page <https://www.oakhillpcusa.org/donate/> or directly through Isaiah 58's webpage <https://i58ministries.org/donate/>

Remember you are welcome to bring whatever items you find on sale, whatever is hanging out in your pantry or your favorite that you must share with everyone!

**There are Go-Bags to share with neighbors in need, you'll find them in the container outside the sanctuary entrance by the chair lift.**

## STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

*By Brian Heuckroth*

S&P continues to work on both long-term and short-term issues with our august property, as well as to provide a compelling and consistent framework for managing the church's financials.

Now that we have a solid roof over our heads, the work continues to adjust to the pandemic dynamic, where we don't know, from week to week or month to month, what will come next. We will prepare, we will communicate, and in the end, we let go and let God.

We envision a church community workday on Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., where we muster volunteers to help with a number of tasks that are on the roadmap, including improving the audio and video performance in sanctuary for our streaming services, improving the safety of our church band on the chancel with flooring and wiring improvements, cleaning the cushions soiled by the leaky roof, and numerous other things.

Our S&P team and other church volunteers have been quite active behind the scenes, fixing things which wear out or break as time goes on. Our thanks go out to all our volunteers who pitch in time and again.

The heater/air conditioner in the Theleos room is being replaced, and in order for it to work, the 25+-year-old electrical outlet and circuit breaker need to be replaced. We will get this done in the weeks to come so that this room can be used effectively by lots of church groups.

We are now working on winterizing various places on the property which are particularly vulnerable to the cold weather, such as the gym, so that we don't have frozen-then-broken water pipes which wreak havoc on the buildings.

The church van has been repaired, so if you know of people who need assistance getting to and from services or other destinations, please let us know so that we can assist.

We encourage all the church community to reach out to us if you see an unmet need.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their January 12, 2022, Stated Scheduled Meeting:

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in December was 53.

Membership as of December 31, 2021, was 96.

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)**Financial Reports for December and  
Year-to-Date 2021

	December	2021 YTD Total
<b>Income</b>		
Actual	\$34,320.23	\$192,657.46
Budgeted	\$36,175.00	\$197,060.00
Over (Under) Budget	(\$1,854.77)	(\$4,402.54)
<b>Expenses</b>		
Actual	\$7,405.16	\$200,272.31
Budgeted	\$15,827.46	\$217,474.76
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$8,422.30)	(\$17,202.45)
Actual Net Revenue (Loss)	(\$458.63)	(\$34,044.11)
Budgeted Net Revenue (Loss)	\$26,915.07	(\$7,614.85)
Over/(Under) Budget	\$20,347.54	(\$20,414.76)
Over(Under) Budget	\$6,567.523	\$12,799.91

Session approved the Mission Information Form for the Interim Pastor.

Session elected Don Stanford as Treasurer.

Session elected Carole Adams as Clerk of Session.

Session elected Donna Cook to serve as Oak Hill's Designated Elder Commission to the Presbyter of Giddings-Lovejoy.

Session approved requesting the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy to allow Pastor Alan to continue moderating our session and congregational meetings until we get an Interim Pastor.

Session approved continuing to worship only on Zoom until February 6 due to the status of the pandemic and to reassess the situation at their stated meeting on February 9.

Session approved following dates for serving the Lord's Supper in 2022: February 6, March 6, April 3, April 14 (Maundy Thursday), April 17 (Easter Sunrise Service and the 10:30 a.m. service), May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2

(World Communion Sunday), November 6, November 27 (first Sunday of Advent), December 4, and January 1, 2023.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, February 17, at 10 a.m. either on Zoom or in person. We'll make that decision closer to the date, and let members know. Please check with Jan Stanford for further information.

**BOOK CLUBS*****Oak Hill Book Club***

The book club is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, on Zoom: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive)

We are going to discuss "*Red at the Bone*" by Jacqueline Woodson. A New York Times best seller, the book focuses on family legacy, including race, class, ambition, education, mother-daughter relationships, and loss. Please read the book and join us.

***Touchy Topics***

The Touch Topics Book Club will be meeting on Zoom on February 2 to discuss the book Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell. The book was published in 2019. The website Goodreads has this to say about the book, "Malcolm Gladwell, host of the podcast Revisionist History and author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Outliers*, offers a powerful examination of our interactions with strangers -- and why they often go wrong. How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn't true? Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect

***Touchy Topics (cont'd)***

on our lives and our world." Everyone is welcome to join our conversation. We meet Wednesday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom ID # is 259 777 226, Password: Disciple.

**CRAFT CLUB**

**Craft Night**

Craft night is coming! Friday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom! (Zoom meeting number 82317808360 password Disciple.) Bring your leftover Valentine candy and favorite project and join us to visit and hang out. Contact Dena Roper with any questions.

**Under the Oak Tree**



If anyone has pictures they would like to put in the monthly newsletter under "Scenes from Oak Hill," please send them to the office by the third Monday of the month.



We are in the process of trying to issue a new church directory. If you have recently changed, added, or deleted your address, email, or telephone numbers (home or cell), would you please check with the office to see if we have the current information that you want published in the directory. If you have any questions, please contact Carole Adams at [office@oakhillpcusa.org](mailto:office@oakhillpcusa.org) or (314) 664-5525.

## Scenes from Oak Hill

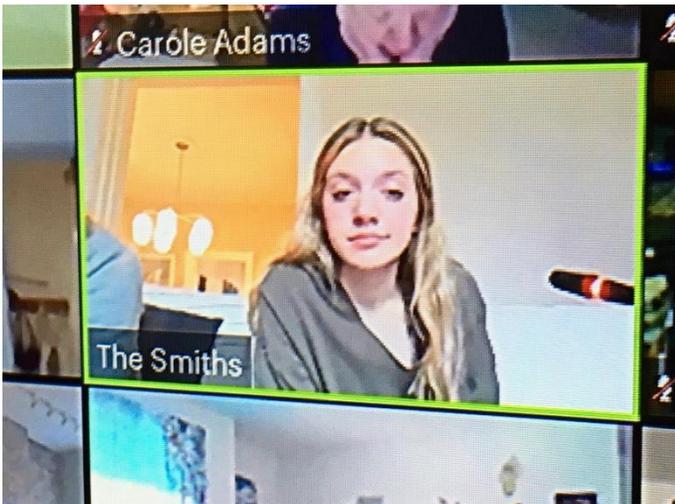
### Installation of Ruling Elders



### Cooking for Winter Outreach



**Return to On-line Worship**



Bible Readings for the Month

**LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY**

Sunday, February 6	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) and Psalm 138; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-13
Sunday, February 13	Jer. 17:5-10 and Psalm 1; 1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
Sunday, February 20	Gen. 45:3-11, 15 and Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-28
Sunday, February 27	Exodus 34:29-35 and Psalm 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

***Oak Hill News***

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church  
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[www.oakhillpcusa.org](http://www.oakhillpcusa.org)

[office@oakhillpcusa.org](mailto:office@oakhillpcusa.org)

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

**Christian Education for All Ages (Zoom)  
(beginning February 6)  
9:30 a.m.**

**Service of Worship (Zoom)  
10:30 a.m.**

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

**(Vacant)**  
Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers**  
“Amicus Ecclesiae”  
(Friend of the Church)

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.