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Oak Hill News

No. 11 NOVEMBER 2022 Volume 72

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

It is hard to believe that the month of November is here. November is a month of remembrances and gratitude. November 1 is All Saints' Day. This year we are going to celebrate All Saints' Sunday on November 6.

I think of "Saints" as people whose lives reflect the goodness of God. Saints are not perfect people. They have faults, short-comings, idiosyncrasies, and weaknesses. They have their own struggles and difficulties. Throughout history those considered Saints have sometimes been noted to have been difficult to live with because of some of their unique mannerisms. Yet, Saints are people of integrity. They have a central focus at the core of their lives: the love of God. They consistently choose to act out of that central reality no matter how ordinary or extraordinary their lives may be. Hudson Taylor said, "All of the great women and men of faith have been weak people who believed that God was with them."

On Sunday, November 6, we will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion and welcoming new members to our congregation. After worship, everyone is invited downstairs for our congregational meeting where we will receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take action on it, as well as receiving the 2023 Asking Budget presentation. Donuts will be served.

On Sunday, November 20, we will celebrate Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday.

I would like to invite everyone to take a few moments to reflect about someone who has perhaps been a "Saint" in your life. Someone for whom you are grateful. Someone who has impacted your life in positive ways. Please write a letter, note, or card of gratitude to that person. Bring the card to church in a stamped and addressed envelope. If the person is no longer living, you may want to have it sent to a loved one or a close relative. We will collect the letters, notes, and cards, on Sunday, November 20, and bless them during the worship experience. They will be sent out on Monday as a token of expressing our thankfulness for the people who have meant a great deal to us over the years. It may be a parent, grandparent, family member, teacher, coach, Sunday School teacher, or anyone else. You can choose to send more than one thanksgiving note if you would like.

We will also be dedicating our 2023 pledges on November 20. I encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to the Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in order to help us to accurately plan the church budget for next year, and more importantly, as a way to give back just a portion of what God has given you as a way of expressing your gratitude to God.

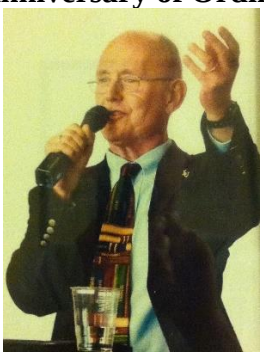
Thank you for your continued faithfulness to God and to Oak Hill.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Wanda

SPECIAL LUNCHEON

There will be a special luncheon on Sunday, November 13, hosted by the Worship and Christian Education Committee. There will be homemade chili/chili mac made by Brian Beckmann in honor of Veterans Day. Please consider bringing toppings or sides (e.g., chopped onions, sour cream, shredded cheese, crackers) or a dessert as potluck. In addition, you are encouraged to bring a "veteran."

The Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers
50th Anniversary of Ordination



Alan Meyers earned his Bachelor's degree from Princeton University majoring in English in 1969. He went on to Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity (MDiv) studying Systematic Theology, in 1972.

Following Seminary, he served as a pastor of churches in Troy, New York and Lawrence, Massachusetts before going back to school at what is now Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia and earning a PhD in Systematic Theology in 1987.

Along with his wife Rosemary, the couple moved back to St. Louis in 1987, where Alan joined the faculty at Lindenwood College in the Religion Department.

Alan was appointed Professor Emeritus in the Religion Department at Lindenwood (now University) in 2010 and continued to serve in an adjunct role for many some years.

Alan joined Oak Hill as Parish Associate in 1990, since then, has been an invaluable part of the Oak Hill community; leading worship, Bible Study and Sunday School classes, providing support to three pastors and, graciously stepping-up to fill a pastor role when Pastor Erin Counihan accepted a call during COVID-19.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a new visitor checking things out, a regular member, a returning member, or just visiting for the weekend (do yourself a favor and check out the Botanical Garden), welcome. Pastor Wanda Lawry is gradually acclimating herself to our community. She's excited to be here, and we're excited to have her.

We continue to offer Zoom worship if you prefer. It is a great way for us to remain connected in spite of our circumstances. However you are here with us, know that you are welcome.

Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., in person or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383)

Communion

Communion will be offered on Sunday, November 6. We offer semi-traditional portions of bread and juice that have been prepared in keeping with COVID-19 protocols. For those looking for a safer option, we also offer small, individual cups of juice with a portion of Communion bread in the lid (this also doubles as the gluten-free option). If you are immunocompromised or just want to play it safe, use this. And you are welcome to bring your own Communion materials from home, if you prefer (this would be the safest option).

We also offer in-home Communion for our extended members. Please let us know if one of our extended members would like Communion in their home, and we can schedule a time. Please reach out to Pastor Wanda or someone on our committee.

We will also be celebrating Communion on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27.

Volunteering

You look like the kind of person who likes to do things. You also look like the kind of person who doesn't necessarily care if you get paid for such things. Congratulations – you are in the right church! As a small congregation, we have a regular need for liturgists, greeters, and nursery caregivers. For our young people, we need acolytes. If your talents lie more in the musical arena, talk to Minister of Music Susan Brown. Church membership is not required for

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

any of this (we can discuss membership later if you like). If you feel called to perform any of these, please let one of us know, or you can sign up on the website, oakhillpcusa.com (the "Worship" tab has an orange box that contains a Sign-up Genius link).

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for adults and children. Adults meet in the Large Assembly Room, which is directly underneath the sanctuary. The children meet in the Sunday School room, which is located at the end of the ground floor hallway in the Education Annex. Children are also getting ready to start practicing for the Christmas Program. (They may have already started. I am not sure, even though it seems like I should be since I am related to a person who will be participating.)

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. (no Zoom option for Sunday School this year)

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study is continuing with *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*, by Amy-Jill Levine. This book examines the miracles both in a historical context as well as examining what it all means today.

Wednesday Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays on Zoom (meeting ID 259 777 226; password Disciple)

Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is November 27. We will be celebrating the "Hanging of the Greens" during the worship service.

The theme for our Advent Celebration is "From Generation to Generation."

Please be sure to pick up your Advent devotional so that you can begin preparing your mind and heart for the coming of the Christ Child.

Art Wall

On October 23, after worship, several Oak Hillians (that's not really what we call ourselves, but you get the idea) exercised their artistic talents for our latest Art Wall project. People grabbed a canvas, a paintbrush, and a bit of table and helped remember all the reasons we have to be thankful. (See Scenes from Oak Hill on pages 7 and 8.)

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Sandy Kay

Greetings from Evangelism and Fellowship Committee. Here is hoping Fall has arrived for good!!

We are so excited for the Fall Festival on October 30 after church. This was an awesome collaboration with Worship and Christian Ed and many great ideas and help from our Pastor Wanda Lawry. There will be much to report later and pictures of all the fun, I'm sure. A giant thank you for all the candy donations for the Halloween giveaway on October 31. Also, thanks to all the hands and feet that prepared 200 bags!!!!

Besides planning for the Fall Festival we worked at planning and submitting our budget for 2023. Many new, exciting things are planned for next year. We are entering a time of coming out of a long slog of little fellowship due to Covid and we are excited about getting together again, however, still in safe ways.

We are excited to welcome baby Calder Lane to Stephanie and Mark Hoegger.

We are also happy to announce that Oak Hill will welcome two new members on November 6 during the service. They are Bette Welch and Will Jones. We welcome them with big smiles, extra elbow bumps, and prayers for their lives.

As far as November goes, we have no big plans due to the holiday preparations and of course Thanksgiving. However, we are hoping to resume the Fellowship Hour in the Large Assembly Room in the near future.

Daylight saving time ends on November 6

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."

— Maya Angelou

Coming up later this month and early December we will be collecting monetary donations for "**Jeans for Teens."** This is an ongoing project with Christine Woodward and University City Public Schools. Your donation will help provide Old Navy Gift cards to families in that school community to help them purchase holiday gifts that fit! Thanks to Christine for helping us participate in this important outreach project at her school. You can put a check in the offering plate made payable to the church and note that it is for Jeans for Teens. There will also be an opportunity set up for online donations as well.

Isaiah 58 Ministries Update

November 2022
6th - Boxed Jell-O or facial tissues (Puffs, Kleenex, etc.)
13th - Boxed Jell-O or pasta (your favorite)
20th - canned fruit (try to find cans with pull tops)
27th - peanut butter

December 2022
4th - Light Tuna or Salmon in cans or pouches
11th - canned beans (look for low sodium)
18th - Instant Brown Rice or whole wheat pasta
25th - canned greens

As you know we have pledged 150 boxes of Jell-O for the Thanksgiving Holiday Bags for I58 Guests. We're almost there!

When shopping, look for low sodium, no sugar added, or natural juices options. Pop/pull tops are helpful, not everyone has a reliable can opener. Your favorite items or sales specials at the grocer all always welcome. Toiletries, hygiene items, hair care products for ethnic hair, body lotions, bath soaps and gels, and laundry and dish detergents are always welcome. Consider a monetary donation of $30 for The Holiday Buy a Bird Campaign. Coats are always welcome and needed for the ministry clothing room. Contact Donna Cook about coat donations.

Thank you to everyone who can support and continue to support Isaiah 58 Ministries in their 50th year.

Go-Bags are in the vestibule for sharing with your neighbors, help yourself.

AMEN St. Louis Update

We had the honor of hosting two groups during October. Our first group was a Baptist group from Minnetonka, MN (this group has visited with us for the past 8 years or so). Our second was from the First Presbyterian Church in Mt Pleasant, Iowa (their second visit). They participated in the Prayer Vigil to Stop Gun Violence that was held at St. John's Episcopal on Arsenal on Friday, October 21. In addition, they planted daffodils with Operation Bright Side and prepared meals for Winter Outreach Projects and snacks and cookies to share with Isaiah 58 Ministries for their Fresh Food Fridays Celebrations. They also enjoyed the City Museum.

Groups have been contacting us for Spring Break Opportunities and Summer bookings are already coming in. Stay tuned for more details.

Prayer Vigil and Conversation: We made the church available for prayer and conversation on Monday, October 24, offered a short service of prayer and music and a space to talk and share snacks. A Facebook commenter posted that she saw us when she was out walking her dog and appreciated that we were there and that it was great to see the front doors open. Thank you to all who were able to participate. It was important for us to be a presence and safe place for people in our neighborhood.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

It was another busy month for S&P with the preparation and approval cycle for the 2023 asking budget. November is shaping up to be interesting as well.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

It seems like only yesterday that we got our AC units under solid control, and now it's time to switch to the boilers for heating season, so we have some preventive maintenance planned for heating in the upcoming weeks. Our aging but still majestic building needs some tuckpointing work to get watertight again, so we are kicking off this effort and will get a contractor engaged. On the DIY side, we will fix a few burnt-out lights, correct a run-on toilet or two, plug some leaks, and paint a few rough spots.

If you see something which needs attention, please do not hesitate to tell Brian Heuckroth or any member of the S&P committee, and we'll put it onto the list to get attention.

Happy Fall!

Weldon Springs Conservation Area on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their October 12, 2022, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in September was 44.

Membership as of September 30, 2022, was 94.

Session voted to allow the wearing of masks optional but continue to practice social distancing. They will request that everyone consider wearing a mask during periods when there is a high interaction with others, for example, entering and leaving the sanctuary, during the passing of the peace, coming forward for communion, or close interaction with another person who is wearing a mask. Everyone will be asked to decide for themselves when they feel it is in their own best interest to wear a mask and maintain a social distance.

Financial Reports for September and Year-to-Date 2022

	September	2022 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$21,409.62	$142,889.71
Budgeted	$23,830.00	$148,140.00
Over (Under) Budget	($2,420.38)	($5,350.29)
Expenses		
Actual	$16,324.34	$115,818.81
Budgeted	$18,629.71	$141,126.59
Over/(Under) Budget	($2,305.37)	($43,937.49)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	$5,085.28	$27,070.90

Session approved a preliminary asking budget of $257,380, as presented, for 2023. This includes $224,828 General (church), and $12,552 AMEN House.

Session voted to approve participation in a special intergenerational Prayer Vigil to pray for victims of gun violence. The Prayer Vigil will begin at 7:00 p.m. on October 21 at The St. John's Episcopal Church on Arsenal Street and everyone will walk around the neighborhood as we lift up our prayers to the Lord.

Session voted to participate in the Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association's "Light Up the Night." It will take place on Sunday evening, December 18. We will place luminaries around the church.

Session voted to sell the church's van.

BOOK CLUBS

Oak Hill Book Club

Book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, at the Barrow residence. We are discussing *"The Tender Side"* by William Kent Krueger.

Please bring your dinner and join us. Discussion will begin at 7 p.m. on Zoom: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive)

Wednesday Touchy Topics Book Club

The Touchy Topics book club meets Wednesday, November 2, to discuss *How the South Won the Civil War*, by Heather Cox Richardson. This book examines the connection between the South and the West, where frontier expansion allowed Southern hierarchies to multiply. December's book will be *No Future Without Forgiveness*, by Desmond Tutu, an exploration of the forgiveness that can only be achieved with direct confrontation of the past.

Touchy Topics Book Club, Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (contact the church via Facebook for the link)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 17, in the Theleos Room. Please bring a sandwich. Salad, chips, dessert, and coffee will be provided.

CRAFT CLUB

Join us for craft night on Zoom on Friday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. Bring you Christmas cards or projects! Please contact Dena Roper with any questions. Hope to see you!

Under the Oak Tree

Dear Oak Hill friends,

Thank you so much for that wonderful celebration on October 30 of the 50th anniversary of my ordination. The stole you gave me is beautiful, and I look forward to wearing it. I am amazed at the number of old friends from various times in my ministry who were contacted and either wrote letters for the occasion or actually appeared and spoke. The time and effort that went into preparing this celebration must have been enormous. The kind words so many of you said to me personally made me feel very good indeed.

It has been a great gift to me and a great joy to be a part of the Oak Hill family all these many years and to worship and serve alongside so many faithful disciples. I pray for every blessing for you all as we continue to share life in Christ.

Sincerely,
Alan Meyers

Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 1 **All Saints' Day**	Dan. 7:1-5, 15-18 *and Psalm 149;* Eph. 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
Sunday, November 6	Hag. 1:15b-2:9 *and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98;* 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
Sunday, November 13	Isaiah 65:17-25 *and Isaiah 12;* 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Sunday, November 20 **Christ the King**	Jer. 23:1-6 *and Luke 1:68-79;* Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
Sunday, November 27 **1st Sunday in Advent**	Isaiah 2:1-5 *and Psalm 122;* Romans 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

Scenes from Oak Hill

World Communion Sunday

Invitation to Oak Hill's Fall Festival

"Oak Hillians" Preparing New Art for our Art Wall

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 24

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
4111 Connecticut Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63116-3926 (314) 664-5525

www.oakhillpcusa.org

office@oakhillpcusa.org

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

Christian Education - 9:30 a.m.
(In Person)

Service of Worship
(In Person and on Zoom)
10:30 a.m.

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

Rev. Wanda Lawry
Interim 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
3rd Monday of each month.