



Oak Branch November 2023



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Dear Beloved OHPC Family,

This month, I am ceding my space to our hardworking Interpretation & Stewardship Committee! Please prayerfully consider their message and request. Thank you!

NOVEMBER 12 IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY!

You will soon receive a letter from OHPC which begins the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. Please consider this request and then return your commitment card to the church at a worship service, in the mail, or in person to the church office.

We are all aware that our monetary gifts are the basis for our church's continuing mission and programs. The proposed 2024 budget of \$261,000 is about a 6% increase over the 2023 budget. The increase is necessitated by rising operating expenses and needed repairs to the church. In the past year we all have experienced rising costs in our personal living costs so it is understandable that OHPC has the same challenge.

Your consideration of an increase in your giving, if able, will be important as our Session goes about planning budget items for next year. Be assured that our leadership will use your contributions in a wise manner.

Please return your completed commitment card by Commitment Sunday, November 12.

Thank you,
Your Stewardship Committee

Okay, Rachael here again. As we enter the month of thanksgiving, I simply wish to express my gratitude for each one of you. Thank you for loving this church the way you do, and for continually bringing God's light to bear in this world.

With love,
Pastor Rachael



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Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.



This is a month of remembrance, celebration, and preparation. We remember and celebrate the lives of those we loved, giving thanks for those who have joined the ranks of the saints of heaven. We remember and celebrate our Presbyterian heritage. At Thanksgiving, we remember and celebrate the many blessings God has provided for us. After Thanksgiving, we prepare for Advent and the birth of Christ with the hanging of the greens.

Lectionary passages are listed for your reflection.

November 1: All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17

The redeemed gather at God's throne; the Lamb is their shepherd.

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

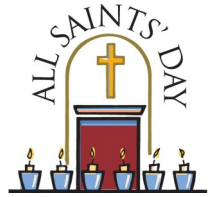
Bless the Lord, our redeemer; taste and see that the Lord is good.

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us; we are God's children now.

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes: blessed are you; your reward is great in heaven.



November 5: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Micah 3:5-12

False prophets, priests, and rulers will be put to shame by God.

Psalms 43

Vindicate me, O God; deliver me from those who oppress me.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

We give thanks that you have received and believed God's word.

Matthew 23:1-12

The greatest will become servants; the humble will be exalted.



November 12: 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24

The day of the Lord is darkness; let justice roll down like waters.

Psalms 70

O Lord, make haste to help me, for I am poor and needy.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The dead in Christ will rise first; then the living will meet the Lord.

Matthew 25:1-13

The parable of the Ten Bridesmaids; keep awake, the Lord is coming.



November 19: 25th Sunday after Pentecost *Heritage Sunday*

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Beware, the day of the Lord is near; wealth will not save you.

Psalms 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

A thousand years are like a day to you; teach us to count our days.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be ready: the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Matthew 25:14-30

The parable of Talents; good and trustworthy servants are rewarded.

November 23: Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

The Lord is bringing you into a good land; do not forget your God.

Psalms 65

Praise God, who answers prayer, sends the rain, and blesses the earth.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

God loves a cheerful giver; thanks be to God for the gift of grace.

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals ten people with leprosy; only one returns to give thanks.



November 26: Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

I will be the shepherd of my sheep, says the Lord; I will save them.

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord; we are the sheep of God's pasture.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Christ is seated at God's right hand; all powers are under his feet.

Matthew 25:31-46

The King will judge: just as you did it to the least, you did it to me.





Don't forget the time change for November 5! Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

SESSION NOTES

- 10% of the garage sale money will be dedicated to outreach, with \$400 of that amount going to the Mission and Outreach committee and the rest to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- Approved a soup luncheon in conjunction with our November 19 Heritage Sunday celebration.
- Approved a silent auction as a fund-raiser in conjunction with the December 9 Christmas Dinner.
- An Eagle Scout candidate will conduct a project to replace the border on the playground sand-pits.

Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session



FINANCIAL NEWS

2023 has been a another very challenging year for OHPC, and we are most grateful for all of the support we have received, especially through our 5th Sunday Building drives, which helped cover the seven AC units which failed this year. In spite of the 5th Sunday support, we are still behind in our income vs. expenditures for this budget year. The Stewardship Committee has been developing a budget for the 2024 year. In today's economy, it takes more resources for the church to operate.

You will soon be receiving a statement of your 2023 contributions. The Finance Committee encourages you to prayerfully consider what you will be able to contribute toward next year's ministry.



P. Jack Henson, Treasurer



Remembrance Sunday

On November 5 we will honor our loved ones who have gone to their reward in the past year. Call the church office with any names you would like to include, and join us on Sunday for this moving service of remembrance.



Thank you! Thank you!

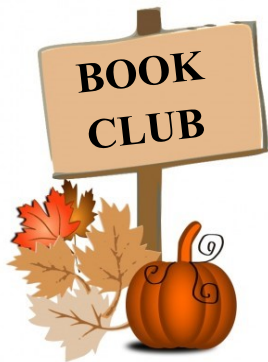
Thank you! Thank you to all those who worked so hard in putting together this year's Trunk or Treat. The kids (and some adults!) had fun showing off their costumes, gathering treats, and playing games. The decorated cars were great, and everyone enjoyed the food—of course!

Celebrating the Past, Present & Future of the Reformed Tradition Sunday, November 19

On Heritage Sunday, in addition to celebrating our Presbyterian roots, we will also celebrate the origins and growth of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church. With the help of several long-time members, our own Jack Henson will highlight some of the memorable events of OHPC's history!

***Wear your family colors and be prepared for the traditional bagpipes and drums!
Then join us in Fellowship Hall for a Soup and Salad Lunch!***





Thursday, November 16, 11 AM

Dear Edward, by Ann Napolitano

When you've lost everything, how do you find yourself? As the only survivor of a plane crash, 12-year old Edward Adler struggles to find his way in a world without his parents and brother, while being inundated with letters from the victims' loved ones who claim him for themselves.

December 7: *I heard the Owl Call My Name*, by Margaret Craven

Commitment Sunday, November 12



Our work makes a huge impact on this community and is an essential part of the work of the Church worldwide.

When we make our yearly budget, we are

inviting each of you into this new and better way of life. Please spend some time in prayer about your gift to God for the coming year, as you commit to returning a portion of what God has given you.



The Christmas season is just around the corner so plan on joining us for our annual Christmas dinner. Your Fellowship Committee will be hosting the dinner and are excited about you attending.

Save the date:

Saturday, December 9



Greening of the Kirk

(Also known as

Hanging of the Greens)

Do you have a knack for decorating? Or maybe you just love preparing for Christmas! Either way, the Music and Worship Committee would welcome your help after worship on November 26 to decorate our sanctuary for advent and Christmas.



Halloween fun returns!

Join us for Trunk or Treat after worship on Sunday, October 29.

Angel Tree—Coming Soon to OHPC

This year, we will provide gifts for needy children at the Presbyterian Children's Home. Details will be provided soon. Once that happens, grab an angel from the tree placed in the narthex and join the fun!



For it is in giving, that we receive.

—Francis of Assisi

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC WORLDS GO CASUAL



I had the thrill and privilege of attending a Frank Sinatra concert, live at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, in January 1982. Ole Blue Eyes, then 66, was in the prime of his career, singing his signature pieces such as "The Lady is a Tramp," "My Way," and "New York, New York." He appeared in the Sands' large showroom immaculately attired in black tuxedo, white shirt, and bow tie. Sinatra dressed that way his entire career. When I saw him live at the New Orleans Superdome in 1987, he was the same class act. So were most other popular singers of the day.

Comedians also hewed to a formal attire. Don Rickles, the "Merchant of Venom," always was formally attired, even if his insults and jokes were anything but staid. The women in comedy wore beautiful gowns and evening attire. I enjoyed seeing Joan Rivers at a show in Michigan in 1976, and she wore well her evening dress.



When performers dress up, they are honoring their craft, as well as respecting their audiences. This standard generally stood through the 1960's. When the "British Invasion" launched the Beatles on their American tour, the young, longish-haired group wore stylish narrow neckties and dark suits. These paradigms began to shift to more casual attire starting in the 1970's, then greatly accelerating toward the end of the 20th Century. The influence of rock groups, including Country/Western performers, was a major driver as our society became more casual.



Nowadays most entertainers, comedians, and musicians are casually attired as they perform before casually-dressed audiences. Exceptions include some mega-star women, such as Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga, who wear elaborate costumes as part of their acts. A handful of male crooners, including Michael Bublé, continue to wear tuxes and tails.

The last hold-out for dress-up performers include opera singers and organists. The former continue to appear in costumes appropriate for the production, while the latter commonly wear suits or tuxedos for men, or evening wear for women. I might opine that traditional music might call for formal attire, even if the audiences are dressed casually.

Finally, in our church world, serious choirs either dress up, or if in church, wear choir robes. In this case, they are offering respect not only to the congregation and to the music, but to the majesty of the universal church. No matter what your choir and organist wear for worship, it should be stated that all congregants are encouraged to worship in the attire they deem appropriate. If we are to welcome all, that includes those wearing formal or everyday garb. God does not discriminate.



Gregory A. Nussel
Organist and Music Director
October 11, 2023

This month, the Membership Committee is highlighting one of our longtime members, Anne Speights

Anne was born in La Porte, Indiana. Her father worked for General Electric, and the family moved several times while she was growing up. She has one younger brother, who was born in NY State. They also lived in King of Prussia, PA and then Asheville, NC, where Anne graduated from HS. It was in high school that she met her first husband, Steve Macintosh. She attended High Point and Maryville College, then Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute (now with UNC). Growing up, her family attended Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

She married Steve after college and the couple moved to Lexington, KY. Anne says she became a “corporate wife.” and also did bookkeeping/secretarial with Carey Construction and Junior Achievement. Her husband worked for the American Can Corporation, and his job also required frequent moves throughout the US, but mostly southern states. They had two sons, Doug, and Heath. At one point, they owned and ran an IHOP restaurant in Gulfport, MS and Biloxi, MS.

The couple divorced in 1991 after 24 years of marriage. Her sons were grown and had moved to California. Anne decided to move to San Antonio, to be closer to her parents who lived in Leon Valley near many other OHPC members of the time. Anne lived in apartments now known as the Oaks at Medical Center just down the street from OHPC.

Anne initially worked for Kelly Services at Corporate Square and soon was hired in the Admissions and Registrar's Office. She retired as Associate Registrar in 2012. It was there she met Steve Speights. The couple was married at Oak Hills and Anne believed theirs was the last marriage performed in the old sanctuary, 8/8/98. They attended OHPC since the 1990's. Steve Speights passed away in 2019 after 20 years of marriage.

Anne has been a continually active member of our congregation. She served many roles including serving as an Elder, Counter, Women's Circle, OHPC Prayer Chain, Middle School Sunday School Teacher and inventory help at the OHPC Library many times (happens when your mother, Alita, is the church librarian). She is currently involved in the Oak Hills Book Club. Anne says she never spent much time reading but joined the group during COVID while the group met via Zoom. She has also participated in the recent Bible Study groups and helped Jack Henson with managing cash at our recent Garage Sales.

Anne is a crafter, loves holidays/decorating and enjoys Googling, which was introduced to Steve and Anne by Dad (Fred Cooper). She has become a daily Psalm 150 reader and Pray As You Go evening prayer time. Family and friends mean more as the years pass, and God has been good.

Anne enjoys participating in the online worship services but joins the congregation “live” on most Communion Sundays.

Our congregation is so blessed to have such a longtime, faithful member!



The family of Julie Schneider would like to express our gratitude to her Oak Hills Presbyterian Church family for so warmly welcoming Julie ten years ago when she relocated to San Antonio to live near her youngest son Glenn. We heard often about what was going on at church and what events were coming up. When one minister moved on and it was time to search for a new one, Julie served on that committee and was so pleased that Rachael accepted the call. We know she was fond of both John Lile and Greg Nussel and it was Julie's choice that any memorial donations be made to the John Lile Organ Fund. We are especially thankful for your support in Julie's final months. Your calls and prayers and help in even finding a foster home for Penelope, the family cat, meant so much to us. May God continue to bless you as you support each other and those in this community.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	2  12:30 PM Bridge	3	4  1-3 Girl Scouts
5 <i>Time change!</i> 10:30 AM Worship/All Saints 4 PM Guide Dogs	6	7 	8 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	9	10	11 
12 10:30 Worship/Commitment Sunday 11:30 AM Session	13	14	15 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	16 11 AM  Book club 12:30 Bridge-	17	18 1-3 Girl Scouts
19 10:30 AM Worship/Heritage Sunday 4 PM Guide Dogs	20	21	22 7 PM AA	23 Office closed 	24 Office closed	25
26 10:30 Worship Hanging of the Greens	27	28	29 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	30  12:30 Bridge		



- 11/8 CLARIS MABO
- 11/10 ANJANA DEVASAHAYAM
- 11/16 MARRA CLIFTON
- 11/20 MICKEL-PERRY BACHE
- 11/26 JULIET LOPEZ
- 11/27 DYLAN MABO



- 11/2 BRYAN CLIFTON
- 11/3 CHERYL CLIFTON
- 11/4 JEFF HALQUIST
- 11/6 DELORIS McDONALD

*Let us come before Him
with thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2

11/27 NAOMI YOUNG



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Service Requested

Oak Branch November 2023



*Thanksgiving
Blessings*

