



Oak Branch JULY/AUGUST 2023



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Beloved Family,

Hard to believe that an entire month of summer has already passed! Summer schedules can be unpredictable, so I wanted this newsletter to be equally helpful for those who find themselves in church every Sunday, and for those whose attendance may be a bit more sporadic.

For those in church, I plan to spend the rest of the summer on the book of Romans. Each Sunday will focus on a new way that Paul is offering good news in the midst of tough times. I pray that each Sunday provides hope and a reminder of the restoration possible through God, both individually and communally. May this summer be a time of renewal at OHPC!

For those who find themselves away, I encourage you to find new ways to worship God! Here are a few ideas to get started:

Say a prayer of gratitude and wonder when you find yourself in a beautiful, natural setting

Practice a minute (or more!) of intentional silence every day

Write out a prayer in a journal or in the Notes App on your phone

Seek out a hymn on Spotify or YouTube or find the Christian music station on your radio

Choose one book from the Bible and commit to reading it before summer ends

Find a new way to serve others

Take three deep breaths every morning, using that time to remind yourself to be open to God's work in the world that day

Take three deep breaths at night, and reflect on how you saw God at work that day

Pick one of the above or create your own. As always, would love to hear about your experience. Happy Summer to all!

With love,

Pastor Rachael



Inside this issue:

- *Worship* 2
- *Congregational news* 3
- *Session* 3
- *Finance* 3
- *Music Notes* 4
- *Member News* 5
- *Glory to God!* 6
- *Thank you!* 7
- *Garage Sale* 8
- *July Calendar* 9
- *Aug Calendar* 9

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 am

Lectionary passages are listed below to add to your summer reading list:

July 2, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9	Jeremiah speaks to Hannaniah about the promises of prophets.
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-48	I sing of God's steadfast love; God's covenant with David.
Romans 6:12-23	The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life in Christ.
Matthew 10:40-42	Jesus sends disciples: "whoever welcomes you welcomes me."

July 9, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12	Rejoice, O people; the humble king is coming to set you free.
Psalm 145:8-14	The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love.
Romans 7:15-25a	Paul confesses his inner conflict with sin; only God can save.
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Jesus says: Come to me; my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

July 16, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13	The word of the Lord will go forth to flourish and bear fruit.
Psalm 65: (1-8) 9-13	Praise is due to God, who blesses the earth with abundance.
Romans 8:1-11	The Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death.
Matthew 13:1-19, 18-23	Jesus tells and explains the parable of the Sower and the Seeds.

July 23, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8	I am the first and last, says the Lord; there is no god besides me.
Psalm 86:11-17	O Lord, give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
Romans 8:12-25	The whole creation waits for redemption with the children of God.
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Another parable of the kingdom: weeds grow among the wheat.

July 30, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12	The young king Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment.
Psalm 119:129-136	Your law is wonderful; the unfolding of your words gives light.
Romans 8:26-39	The Spirit helps us; nothing can separate us from God's love.
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	God's kingdom is like a mustard seed, yeast, a treasure, a pearl, a net.

August 6, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5	Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; eat and be satisfied.
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	The Lord is gracious and merciful, giving food in due season.
Romans 9:1-5	Paul struggles with the issue of Israel's relationship to the church.
Matthew 14:13-21	With five loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds a great multitude.

August 13, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18	Elijah hears the word of the Lord—not in the storm, but in silence.
Psalm 85:8-13	Let me hear what the Lord will speak; God will speak peace.
Romans 10:5-15	Proclaim the word of faith: Confess Jesus as Lord, and be saved.
Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on the water to meet his disciples, and calms a storm.

August 20, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	The Lord will welcome foreigners along with the outcasts of Israel.
Psalm 67	God's saving power is known among all the nations of the earth.
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God has not rejected Israel, but desires to show mercy to all.
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28	Debate about what defiles; a Canaanite woman shows great faith.

August 27, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6	Look to the rock from which you were hewed; God will deliver.
Psalm 138	I sing your praise, O Lord; do not forsake the work of your hands.
Romans 12:1-8	Offer yourselves to God as a living sacrifice; one body, many gifts.
Matthew 16:13-20	Who is Jesus? Peter answers: You are the Messiah, the Son of God.



SESSION NOTES

- Choir appreciation luncheon will be held June 25.
- Fellowship will host an indoor picnic in Fellowship Hall on July 2.
- A new rental agreement has been presented to ISSA.
- Buildings and Grounds is cleaning and organizing the lockers in Fellowship Hall, and requests all committees to label the doors where they have stored supplies.



Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session

Pastor Rachael will be on vacation July 16-23.

FINANCIAL NEWS\$

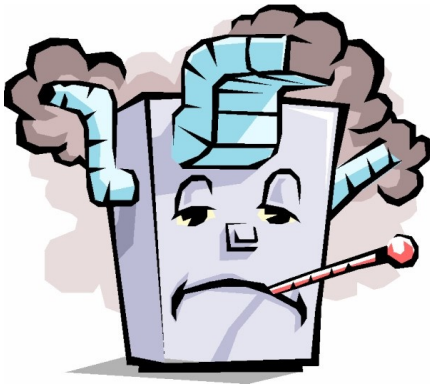
We'd like to thank folks for maintaining their pledges. We are trying to control our expenses in spite of everything that has befallen. We currently have three **old** regular size and two big air conditioner units that need to be replaced. We are receiving some income from the Zomi congregation and International School, although this does not cover all of the addition expenses, and we are depleting our reserves. You have an opportunity to help with these expenses during our 5th Sunday Capital Improvement Campaign. We also look forward to revenue from the upcoming garage sale. We'll need all the help we can muster to make the sale a success!

P. Jack Henson, Treasurer



5th Sunday

Capital Improvement Campaign July 30



Just as we are encountering record heat, five of our old air conditioning units, including the one in the sanctuary, need to be replaced. You can assist with this expense during our 5th Sunday Capital Improvement

Campaign on July 30. Mark your check "Capital Improvement" to designate funds to that account.



We will resume after Labor Day...join us in the Library at 11:00 a.m. and invite a friend!

Sept 7: Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale by Lynda Rutledge (Change of date and title)

Faith Bass Darling, the richest woman in Bass, Texas, decides God has told her to sell all her possessions. With the help of neighborhood kids, they drag out all of her priceless heirlooms to sell for a pittance. How do family and neighbors respond?

Oct 19: Killers of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn

Nov 16: Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano

We are pleased to welcome the following as members of our session:

Class of 2024

Kathy Pettit
Jose Lopez
(youth)

Class of 2026

Danny Clark
Judy Grant
Nancy Redd
Terri Slonaker
Robert Stull

Class of 2025

Docia Mabo



Reverberation and Sound

I have written extensively on OHPC's beloved John Lile Organ. Completed in 2004, the organ incorporates the pipes from the previous pipe organ while adding several hundred more. The voicing is labeled as "American Classic," meaning that the sounds are bright and orchestral in nature.

Nevertheless, voicing is only one factor in the production of sound in a room. The other major factor involves the acoustics of the facility, meaning how sound, once produced, resonates within that room. The term commonly used to describe these characterizations is known as "reverberation," that is, how the sound waves reflect within the facility.



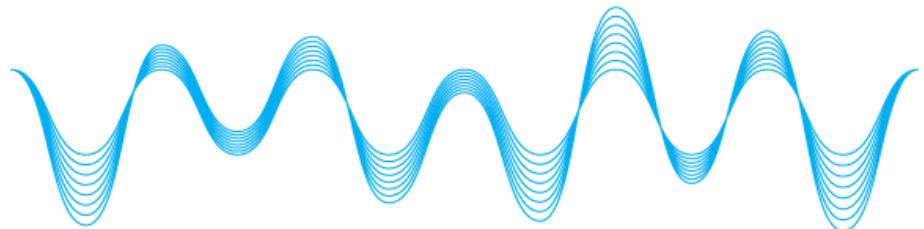
The OHPC sanctuary has a dry acoustic – when sound is produced, it lands and ends. The room was specifically set up to be comfortable for those in attendance so that everyone could hear the spoken word, prayers, and sermon. Notice when the sound system was down, Pastor Rachael could be easily heard by nearly everyone. The dry acoustic, with little reverb, is achieved by carpeting the floor, as well as having comfy pew cushions and the bead-board sound-deadening ceiling. All of this was intentional by design. Our reverberation time in the sanctuary is about two seconds.

That type of set-up is preferred by many congregations, but it is not optimal for organ performance or choral production. Organists invariably prefer resonant surfaces, hard ceilings, no carpeting, and pews without cushions. They are rarely successful in persuading church leaders and the Session that these are desirable features. As a result, organ builders "work around" those limitations by adding pipe sets, increasing wind pressure within, and raising the sound volume. Our organ builder accomplished that compromise, with advice from John Lile, and the result is a bright pipe organ.

Nowadays, if a church embarks on an organ project, an acoustical consultant is often engaged. The consultant may recommend various enhancements to the space, such as hardened ceiling and the use of solid flooring rather than carpet. If successful, those techniques often can double the reverb time to 4-5 seconds. If obtained, the organ can be voiced softer, and the choir heard more easily without amplification.

Our sanctuary is now over 20 years old and has its original carpeting. If the day comes that the carpet requires replacement, the music program would be well-served by installing ceramic tile or hardwood in its place. (I won't bother to recommend no pew cushions, a suggestion that would be dead upon arrival.) But someday – long after other church priorities are achieved – pulling up that red carpeting would be a decided blessing. Dreaming On!

Gregory A. Nussel
Organist and Music Director
June 22, 2023



Let's Get to Know One Another Better

This month the Membership Committee is highlighting another one of our families, Ro and Ashley Amonett and their daughter Juliett.

Rocio (Ro) was born in Laredo, TX. She is an only child. After high school graduation, she moved to San Antonio where she studied Political Science at UTSA. She graduated in 2005 and worked as a paralegal for a number of years. Ro went back to school in 2012 and received her Master's degree in Public Administration. She now works as an auditor at the State Auditor's office and commutes to Austin three times each week.



(James) Ashley is also a native Texan. Born in San Antonio, his family moved to Lubbock after his father Randy graduated from dental school. He moved several times during his childhood to Texas towns of Mt. Pleasant and San Marcos. During his high school years he moved with his mother to Glendora, California. After graduation, Ashley attended college at Texas Tech and San Angelo State. He moved back to San Antonio in 2006. Ashley currently is an HR Analyst and is lucky enough to work primarily from home. He has two older brothers and two daughters, Kenzie (21, above left) and Emily (19, above right), from a previous marriage.

The couple was married in 2010.

Juliett, their delightful daughter, was born in 2018. She recently graduated pre-K and will attend kindergarten in the fall at BASIS Charter School. Juliett loves spending time with her grandma, Donna, and even joined her in the choir one recent Sunday. She looks forward to turning 5, so that she can join choir permanently. Juliett currently plans to attend dental school and become a doctor when she finishes high school.

Ashley enjoys running and started training seriously last September. He has completed several 5K and 10K races. Ro enjoys crafting and helping out with goodie bags for Juliett's class. She also makes homemade soaps, crayons and candles. She enjoys reading when she can find the time.

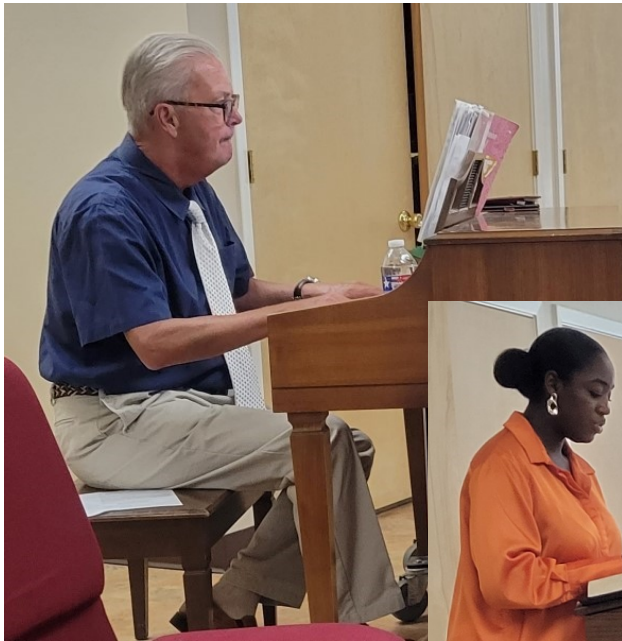
Ashley's stepmom Donna and his late father Randy Amonett invited the couple to visit OHPC quite a few years ago, "and they just stayed".

We are delighted to have the Amonetts as part of our congregation!

Every good gift and every perfect gift
is from above...

James 1:17

God calls us to worship in diverse places and alternate ways. After a lightning strike caused the failure of our sound system, Pastor Rachael proclaimed the good news in the sanctuary without a mic or a podium. When the sanctuary air conditioner failed, we glorified God in Fellowship Hall.



With Fellowship Hall already set up for the choir luncheon, the ushers, greeters, and elders adjusted the space for worship, including hymnals, bulletins, and offering plates as usual.



Greg shifted to the piano, with the choir seated to his side.

50 parishioners shared the name of a person for whom they were grateful and one who needed help. Pastor Rachael then lifted those folks in prayer.

Pastor Rachael and liturgist Docia Mabo shared a recreated “pulpit” space during a very meaningful service.

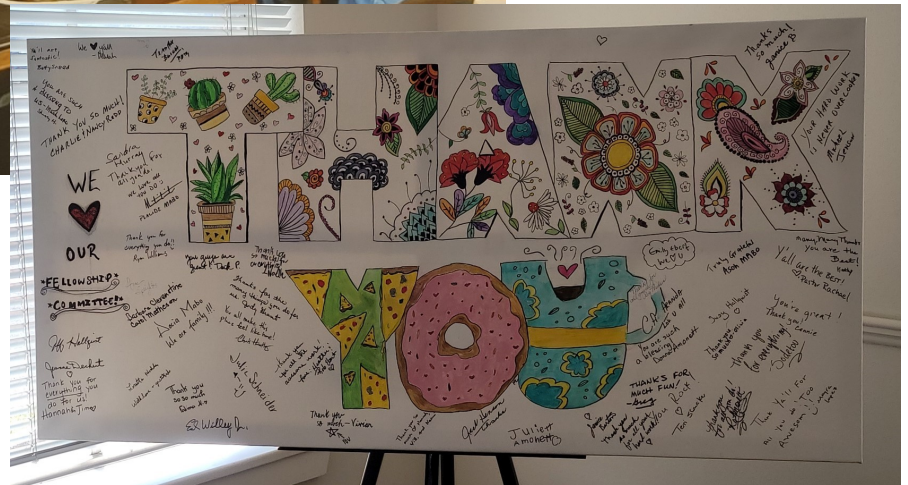


WE APPRECIATE THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE!



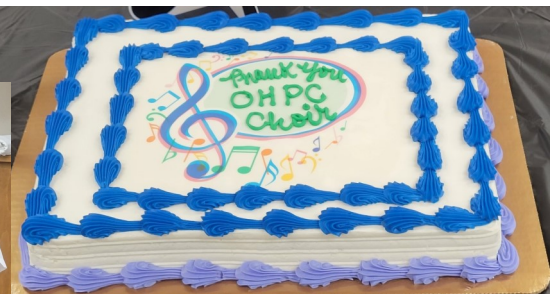
Thank you Ann Stull, Jesse and Joyce Aguilera, Liz and Dick Elliott, Robert Stull, and Clara and Lesley Brown!

Heather Ebert and her daughters decorated the "Thank-you" canvas, which OHPC members signed in appreciation of the Fellowship Committee's dedicated service. In addition to the canvas, individual members received restaurant gift cards. They decided to pool their cards and celebrate together at Outback Steakhouse!



WE APPRECIATE THE CHOIR!

Clara Brown and Liz Elliott manned the salad . . .



. . . while Barbara Clevestine made sandwiches as Jack Henson carved the ham.



Janice Barton, Donna Amonett, Peggy Hudson, Greg and Vanessa Nussel, Ann Stull, Orion Steed
Missing: Roberta Betts, Jan Hamill, and Kiko Lopez



Garage Sale Mania



38 Annual OHPC Garage Sale
Saturday, September 23



We need volunteers in order to hold the sale our 28th (mostly) annual garage sale. If you are interested, please let us know by **July 14**. Call or email the office or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Help Needed:

- Unload trailer (Sunday prior)
- Head up a sales area (needed the full week)
- Sort & Set-up (come and go during the week)
- Help with sales (Saturday)
- Help with clean-up (Saturday)
- Provide food for the workers

We hope you can join this time of fun & fellowship!

Note to Parents: This is a great way for middle school & high school students to earn service hours!

Save your good stuff for the garage sale!

Best sellers:





- Small furniture
- Women's clothing in good condition
- Antique treasures
- Laptops/tablets in working condition

Things we cannot sell:

- Encyclopedias
- Obsolete computers/TV's
- Textbooks
- Anything not in good condition

Please hold your large items until closer to the sale and/or when we get the storage unit.




July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 am Worship followed by Indoor Picnic 4-6 pm Guide Dogs	3 Office closed	4 Office closed 	5 Pastor Rachael out of the office 7 pm AA	6  12:30 pm Bridge	7	8
9 10:30 am Worship	10	11	12 7 pm AA	13	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship 4-6 pm Guide Dogs	17 Pastor Rachael on vacation	18 Pastor Rachael on vacation	19 Pastor Rachael on vacation 7 pm AA	20  12:30 pm Bridge	21 Pastor Rachael on vacation	22 Pastor Rachael on vacation
23 10:30 am Worship Pastor Rachael on vacation	24	25	26 7 pm AA	27  12:30 pm Bridge	28	29



- 7/6 Ron Wilson
- 7/9 Mayra Lopez
- 7/9 Carol Telma Mabo
- 7/9 Joan Oei
- 7/9 Orion Steed
- 7/12 Sherry Haglund
- 7/14 Greyson Clifton
- 7/15 Olivia Ebert
- 7/16 Coleman Oei
- 7/23 Musa Njifouota
- 7/23 Jane Smith
- 7/24 Lori Williams
- 7/25 Juliett Amonett
- 7/29 Charles Mims
- 7/31 Zakari Njifouota, Jr.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:30 am Worship	31	1	2 7 pm AA	3  12:30 pm Bridge	4	5
6 10:30 am Worship 4-6 pm Guide Dogs	7	8	9 7 pm AA	10	11	12
13 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Session	14	15	16 7 pm AA	17  12:30 pm Bridge	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship 4-6 pm Guide Dogs	21	22	23 7 pm AA	24  12:30 pm Bridge	25	26
27 10:30 am Worship	28	29	30 7 pm AA	31		

- 8/1 Maddie Clifton
- 8/1 Sydney Clifton
- 8/2 Vivian Ebert
- 8/3 Emerson Clifton
- 8/4 Ryan Chi II
- 8/10 Roberta Betts
- 8/11 Destiny Mabo
- 8/15 Malik Njifouota
- 8/15 Mark Peterson
- 8/16 Eleanor Egger
- 8/17 Janice Barton
- 8/20 Armando Lopez
- 8/21 Lesley Brown
- 8/25 Liz Elliott
- 8/26 Greg Nussel
- 8/27 Clotilda (Koku) Fru



- 8/17 Chris & Rachael Huntley
- 8/20 David & Lori Vickers
- 8/21 Anjana & Bivinlal Devasahayam

Oak Hills Presbyterian Church

6739 Callaghan Road
San Antonio, Texas 78229
210-342-0271

Email: oakhills@oakhillspresbyterian.com
Web Site: www.oakhillspresbyterian.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Service Requested

Oak Branch July/August 2023

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

