



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Beloved Family,

I say it every year: to me, September often feels more like the start of a new year than January. The unceasing Texas heat notwithstanding, I always begin to feel that frisson of hope that accompanies new beginnings. Whether our summers were good or bad or somewhere in between, it is time to put them to bed and look forward. What are you looking forward to this fall?

I hope you are looking forward to some of the events we have listed in this newsletter: ice cream socials, garage sales, book clubs, choir practices, backpack blessings, new ministry opportunities; we have a little bit of everything!

Let this inspire you to perhaps reimagine your place at OHPC:

--Always wanted to sing, but never quite had the courage? Try one Wednesday choir practice; I promise Greg and the choir will make you feel right at home.

--New to the area and/or wanting to make some new friends? Give the book club a try!

--Ready to serve your community? The Garage Sale is calling your name! Whether you have an hour to give or a whole week, they will find a way to use your talents!

--Do you like to drive and help others? Please take a look on page 9 at the new rideshare ministry that our Membership Committee is getting off the ground!

--Haven't been on a committee in a while? Your church needs you! Please see the descriptions of our ministries on page 10 and see what might fit your skills and interests the best. Special note: we do not have a Stewardship Chair and could really use one! I will give you guidance, so don't worry about not knowing exactly what to do.

May this autumn bring you many blessings and allow you to be a blessing to others. It's trite but true: be the change you wish to see in the world!

With love,

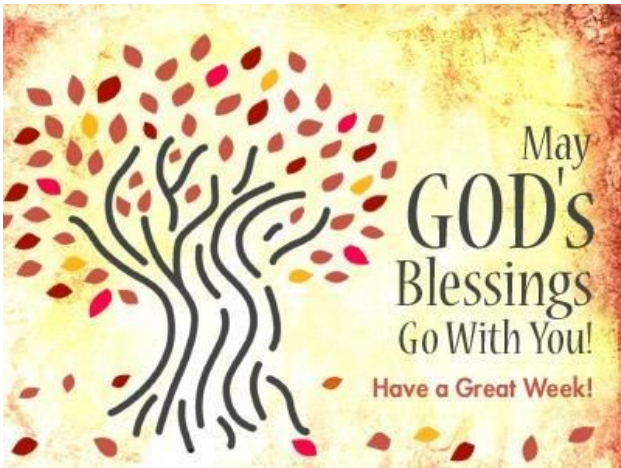
*Pastor Rachael*



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## Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.



### September 3: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah laments his calling, but God promises to redeem him.

Psalms 26:1-8

Vindicate me, O Lord; I have trusted you and walked in integrity.

Romans 12:9-21

Love one another; seek what is good; live peaceably with all.

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus says: If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross.



### September 10: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live.

Psalms 119:33-40

Teach me your way, O Lord; to turn from vanity and disgrace.

Romans 13:8-14

Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus says: seek reconciliation; when you gather I am with you.



### September 17: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph's brothers seek forgiveness; God turned their evil to good.

Psalms 103:(1-7) 8-13

Bless the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sin.

Romans 14:1-12

Refrain from judgement; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 18:21-35

A lesson in forgiveness from a parable about debts and debtors.



### September 24: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11

God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush.

Psalms 145:1-8

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.

Philippians 1:21-30

Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard; the last will be first.



## Ice Cream Social



Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 3rd, as we enjoy ice cream and celebrate Labor Day.

**Consider bringing your favorite homemade Ice Cream to share and impress your friends.**

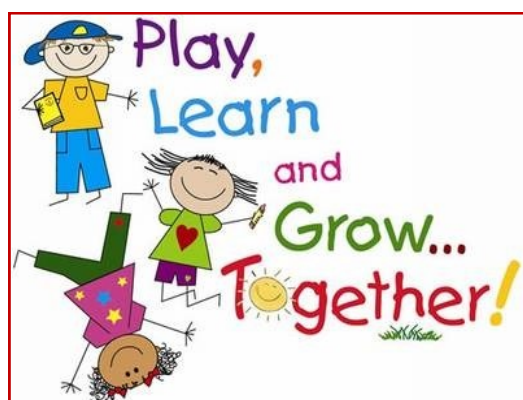


Plenty of Ice Cream and toppings will be available, even if you do not make and bring homemade.

Hosted by your OHPC Fellowship Committee

*“If we are what we eat, well, I am awfully sweet.”*

## Calling all Kids!



Kindergarten through 6th grade kids are invited to join us in the library after Children's Church each Sunday for games, activities, and crafts as we learn more about Bible characters.

**Starting September 10**

## Faith & Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee is providing snacks in the narthex after each Sunday service. Take a few moments to enjoy some refreshments as you greet your fellow congregants.

## Book Club is Back!



Join us at 11 AM, Thursday, September 7

In-person participants will meet in the Blue Room. A Zoom link will be emailed for those wishing to join virtually.

**Our book for September is  
Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale  
by Lynda Rutledge**

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? And why would God ask such a thing?

**For future discussion:**

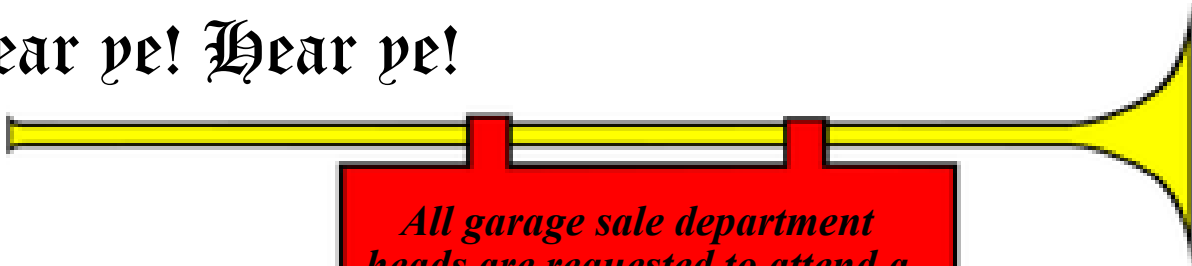
**October: *Killers of a Certain Age*  
by Deanna Raybourn**

**November: *Dear Edward*, by Ann Napolitano**

*We'd love to hear your suggestions for future books!*



Hear ye! Hear ye!



*All garage sale department heads are requested to attend a brief meeting in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sunday, September 10.*

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

We wish to extend a special blessing to all students returning to school or college. Bring your backpack with you to worship for this blessing.



**Choir Rehearsals Resume**

**September 6**

**We are always looking for new faces and additional voices! Please join us Wednesdays at 7 pm.**

**FINANCIAL NEWS\$**

For all who participated in the 5th Sunday Capital Improvement Drives, we are extremely grateful. Between 40 and 50 individuals contributed! Your contributions have enabled us to repair or replace our recalcitrant HVAC system and paint the steeple.

By working together like this on the garage sale, we can count on another successful venture in September. Part of the funds received from the sale goes to support our mission outreach in the community. The remainder goes into the reserves that will help support our budget.

Thank you to all who have continued to contribute! You can send your contributions to the church or through the link on the church website. We can accomplish much when we work as a united group. Thank you for your support of OHPC and stay cool!

**P. Jack Henson, Treasurer**



**SESSION NOTES**

- Approved the use of donated funds to replace the air conditioning in the choir room.
- Approved the repair/replacement of HVAC units in the sanctuary and the education wing.
- Approved the Girl Scouts' use of Fellowship Hall once a month for leadership meetings.
- The lease for the International School of San Antonio is being renegotiated for the coming year.
- Sunday School for the children will begin September 10 using the Holy Moly curriculum.
- We need a chairman for the Stewardship and Interpretation Committee.

**Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session**



## THANK GOD I'M A PRESBYTERIAN!

Many of OHPC's members may recall that I spent 32 years working for the federal courts, with most of my career at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. Although I was also active as a church musician throughout my time, I kept my court life separate from my church life. With the need for the separation of church and state, especially in the Judicial Branch, my approach was always careful and prudent.



Not everyone with whom I worked observed the curtain between church and state. Sometimes folks wore religious jewelry. Others joined prayer groups at their lunch hours. And some employees evangelized in the workplace. As a government official, I didn't worry about jewelry and prayer groups away from the office, but I discouraged evangelical behavior at work, attempting to keep the office entirely non-sectarian.



One of my colorful colleagues in another circuit got into trouble for not observing this separation. A florid and delightfully candid manager of a court legal office, he would proudly exclaim, *"I sure am glad I'm a Presbyterian and am saved by faith and grace . . . I'd never make it on my works!"* An attentive listener might get past the bluster and realize this outsized character was confessing humility and human frailty. His office of 30 staff included 6 or 7 Presbyterians, all delighted at his comments. But at least one person was sufficiently offended to file a hostile workplace complaint with the Chief Judge. My friend was deemed religiously oppressive.

The Chief Judge gently urged restraint by the legal manager, noting that some employees are more prone to complain and be unhappy, but that management had to take the high road. My friend reluctantly followed the Chief's admonition, later muttering, *"I'm still glad I'm a Presbyterian!"*

Fortunately for all of us, when we gather for worship at OHPC, we can truly be enthusiastic and celebrate, *"I sure am glad I'm a Presbyterian – An Oak Hills Presbyterian - and am saved by faith and grace!"* May we always be blessed in our worship and ministries.

Gregory A. Nussel  
Organist and Music Director  
August 18, 2023



# Saturday, September 23, 2023



# We're baaaaack!

*We invite everyone to join our 'fun-raising' adventure!*

## **OHPC 38th Annual Garage Sale Mania**

*All garage sale department heads are requested to attend a brief meeting in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sunday, September 10.*



## ***ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OHPC***



*What does this adventure involve?*

## **GET YOUR RID OF STUFF**

- OLD/NEW
- OUTDATED/UNWANTED
- BARELY USED/OVERUSED

*To volunteer or to donate food, call:*

- ⇒ *church office (210-342-0271) or*
- ⇒ *Heather (210-788-7965) or*
- ⇒ *Michael (210-422-5010)*



*We need:*

- \*stuff to sell.
- \*help moving stuff out of the storage container on Sunday 9/17
- \*help sorting Monday-Friday 9/18 to 9/22, 9am to 6pm
- \*help Saturday 9/23 selling 9am to 3pm
- \*help Saturday 9/23 cleaning up at 3pm and putting areas back together

**For large item pick-up, call Michael at 210-422-5010.**



## What sells?

### Furniture

**Absolutely our #1 seller.** Why? Because it takes a lot of mugs, books, t-shirts, and shoes to equal the dollar amount that ONE piece of furniture makes. Upholstery must be in good clean condition to sell but wood furniture can be refinished or painted over which makes furniture the top seller. Outdoor items also sell quickly.



### Gold and Silver Jewelry

ranks #2 in terms of what we make on each item.

### Lawn equipment and tools

come in as our #3 seller.



### In sheer quantity we need:

hardware, working appliances, lamps, kitchen items such as dishes, pots/pans, utensils,



holiday decorations, luggage, jewelry, purses, shoes, belts, books, records, DVDs, CDs, tapes, video games, as well as working computer equipment, flat screen televisions, and stereo equipment, toys, bicycles, sporting equipment, linens such as sheets, towels, bedspreads/quilts, pillows, sewing items, craft supplies, women's, men's, children's clothing.



**DO NOT bring us:** Any size old tube TVs or any TVs in a wood cabinet. They do not sell and Salvation Army won't accept them. That includes old tube computer monitors as well and soiled/torn mattresses or upholstery.

© CanStockPhoto.com

**What doesn't sell?** Non-working large appliances, large desks, torn/dirty clothing, plastic yogurt/cool whip type containers, carpet scraps, used candles, Christmas trees, or broken items.



### Results: A win-win for everyone!

- ⇒ You win by decluttering.
- ⇒ You win by having fun, meeting new people, and reconnecting with old friends.
- ⇒ The community wins by getting quality items at below retail cost.
- ⇒ OHPC wins by having discards turned into ca\$h for the church.

## Fellowship

### House Rules...

Help us maintain the kitchen and reduce waste.

Open containers/packaging (do not rip apart), remove what you need and close the container/packaging. Return excess items (place in container) when done.

Mark/Label items you donate to the church or are storing for later use. Place a name or committee, date dropped off, and intended use on the label.

Wash, dry and return items to the appropriate drawer, cabinet or shelf when done; do not leave them just setting out (that creates confusion and clutter).

Dispose of leftover food items, leaving them in the refrigerator un-labeled creates a hassle for others.



## Buildings and Grounds



### Capital Giving

The Capital Giving Campaign is an ongoing effort to raise funds to give us the ability to address long term capital projects such as heating and cooling systems (HVAC), maintenance and repair of the building, lawn and tree management, appliance replacement, audio visual systems (sound, streaming, recording, etc.). We ask for extra donations each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Thanks for your generosity.

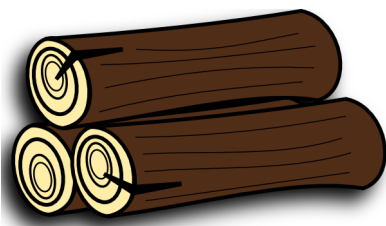
### Air Conditioning and Heating

As most of you know we have had a challenging spring and summer with our air conditioning systems. This spring a storm passed through and a lightning strike damaged two systems, as the summer heat rose, we lost 4 more units (including the sanctuary) and another was identified as being in critical condition. All these systems had been in service for approximately 20 years, it was time. With your assistance (advice, prayers, and financial support) we are back on track. Of the most critical units three have been replaced, two have been repaired. Workarounds have been instituted to allow us to continue to function with minimum discomfort, and plans are in the works to fully recover them.



Thanks for your patience, donations, and prayers.

### Mesquite Wood Available



This summer we lost another mesquite tree, it had served us well for over 30 years, but it had to be removed for safety reasons. The good news is that for our barbeque enthusiast we have mesquite wood available. If you would like some contact the office and let us know. You can arrange to come by and pick some up (sorry we do not deliver). The wood is free, but we do accept donations.



## Membership

### INTRODUCING OHPC RIDESHARING PROGRAM



You've heard about Uber and LYFT.... Now try **OH-VOW** (Oak Hills Volunteers on Wheels)!

Over the next few weeks, the Membership Committee will be coordinating a list of volunteer drivers from

our congregation who are willing to provide an occasional ride for other members.

For Example: Your car is in the shop, you have an appointment, but your friends and family are at work. Your ophthalmologist wants to dilate your eyes, and you can't drive home. You hate driving at night, but don't want to miss out on the OHPC Christmas dinner.

Stand by for more information and "rules of the road", but prayerfully consider volunteering to help.



### **Sunday School Help Wanted!**

Step by step leader guides make lessons easy to prepare and present. All materials will be provided.

*Talk with Heather Ebert or call the church office if you are interested.*



## Save the Date

Halloween fun returns

after worship on

Sunday, October 29

# Trunk or Treat



## Christian Education

### Congratulations!

*Ron and Idalia Harmon  
Scholarship Recipients*

**Docia Mabo Akonwi,**  
*UTSA*

**Emmanuella Yaje,**  
*Galen College of Nursing*

**Kaori Chi**  
*Northwest Vista College*

**Brian Butler**  
*Dental Aptitude Exam*

We wish you well!

**The work of our church takes place through our committees. Please consider joining one. Just contact the committee chair for meeting times:**



**Buildings and Grounds:** Robert Stull (rstull@satx.rr.com)

- \* **Mission:** responsible for upkeep, procurement, service, and maintenance of the church's physical plant and furnishings.

**Christian Ed:** Heather Ebert (heatherboyd5@gmail.com)

- \* **Mission:** to provide a variety of opportunities to all members of the congregation to study and learn the Word of God.

**Fellowship:** Robert Stull (rstull@satx.rr.com)

- \* **Mission:** to promote, develop and provide an active, vital congregational life by the hosting of social events and supporting OHPC activities, programs, and missions.

**Interpretation and Stewardship:** Chair needed— contact Pastor Rachael (210-342-0271)

- \* **Mission:** to ensure that we have the financial resources to continue Christ's ministry at OHPC and seek to inspire our members to participate in the joy of giving and inform them about the way their gifts are used to support our ministries.

**Membership:** Nancy Redd (redd.nancy@gmail.com)

- \* **Mission:** to welcome visitors and new members into the life of the church. To enrich the lives of members and surrounding community by providing opportunities to build relationships with one another.

**Memorial:** Eleanor Egger (eegger63@aol.com)

- \* **Mission:** to monitor funds donated in memory of deceased loved ones; when gifts are given to the Memorial Fund, an acknowledgement is sent to the family and to the donor.

**Mission and Outreach:** CA Aranda (alacasa@sbcglobal.net)

- \* To coordinate the church's benevolence program and actively participate in selected local missions.

**Music and Worship:** Judy Grant (grant.judith7@gmail.com)

- \* Coordinating with the pastor and the music director to support Sunday worship each week, along with other related church programs. This includes decorating as needed, scheduling ushers/greeters and liturgists, and preparing for communion.

**Personnel:** Dick Petitt (petittr0466@gmail.com)

- \* With the commitment of our members and the support of the Session, we provide the necessary support for the growth of OHPC's activities and missions through a talented and dedicated staff.



# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 1-3 PM Girl Scouts
3 10:30 AM Worship 4-6 PM Guide Dogs	4 Office closed <b>LABOR DAY</b>	5	6 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	7 11 AM Book Club 12:30 PM Bridge 6 PM B&G mtg	8	9
10 10:30 AM Worship Children's Sunday School begins 11:45 Session	11	12	13 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	14 10 AM Music & Worship meeting	15	16
17 10:30 AM Worship 4-6 PM Guide Dogs	18 9AM—6PM Garage sale prep	19 9AM—6PM Garage sale prep	20 9AM—6PM Garage sale prep 7 PM Choir	21 9AM—6PM Garage sale prep	22 Garage sale prep	23 9 am-3pm <b>GARAGE SALE</b>
24 10:30 AM Worship	25	26	27 7 PM Choir 7 PM AA	28 12:30 PM Bridge	29	30

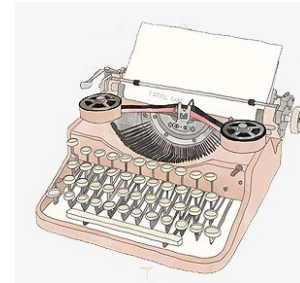


9/28 Docia Mabo  
9/30 Nancy Redd  
9/30 Cannon Clifton



9/8 Barry & Jan Hamill  
9/17 Tim & Vanessa O'Keefe  
9/30 Bob & Sandra Goad

9/3 Ed Kleitches  
9/9 Avery Clifton  
9/9 David Vickers  
9/13 Tyler Tschirhart  
9/14 Rachael Huntley  
6/16 Dan Clark  
9/16 Easton Clifton  
9/23 Peggy Anderson  
9/23 Nitin Devasahayam



## Your Input is Welcome!

Did you know you can contribute an article to share with our OHPC family? It can be an inspirational story, a helpful hint, a recipe or something that will tickle our funny bone. Please note all articles have to be approved by the editor and are subject to available space. When you have something to share, contact Donna Amonett (damonett@gmail.com).



**Oak Hills Presbyterian Church**

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

Email: [oakhills@oakhillspresbyterian.com](mailto:oakhills@oakhillspresbyterian.com)  
Web Site: [www.oakhillspresbyterian.com](http://www.oakhillspresbyterian.com)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

## *Oak Branch September 2023*

Whatever  
you do,  
work  
heartily,  
as for  
the Lord  
and not  
for men.

Colossians 3:23

