

The Oak Leaf

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

SPRING, 2017

OUR VISION STATEMENT: A WELCOMING, GROWING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHERE FAITH COMES ALIVE.

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143rd General Assembly...

As OPC's elder representative to the London Presbytery it was my turn, and privilege, to be a Commissioner to the 143rd General Assembly this June. The Assembly took place in Kingston, Ontario June 4-7. Reverend Ed and I, along with 4 other representatives from London, attended. The General Assembly is the highest 'court' in the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC). The material to be covered in preparation for the Assembly comes in the form of the Book of Reports; this year is was 520 pages long! (anyone can review this Book by going to the PCC

website) At the Assembly, reports are presented, the work of the church throughout Canada and the world, with prayerful deliberation, is discussed, programmes reviewed, and doctrine discussed with direction taken. After respectful discussion, decisions regarding recommendations are made democratically with each commissioner voting his/her conscience.

There are many standing committees within the PCC that deal with aspects of the Church at large. They present recommendations for discussion at the Assembly and,

possibly, for referral to congregations/presbyteries to be discussed and provide feedback to the national church. This was a fascinating opportunity to see the larger church in action. At times we get so involved with our own congregation that we can forget we are a part of something so much larger that has been a force in the ever-changing world for 500 years!

✦Janet Donkervoort



Work for us from General Assembly...

This year the 143rd General Assembly addressed several contemporary issues and made some progress toward discerning what Jesus would have us do while being faithful to His Word. The issues around sexuality, especially with regards to our brothers and sisters in the

LGBTQI community, invoke many responses. The PCC (The Presbyterian Church in Canada) has an unfortunate history of homophobia and hypocrisy toward these brothers and sisters. The Assembly wanted Presbyteries, Sessions, and congregations to discuss these is-

sues with open hearts to voice their ideas and concerns as the PCC moves to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. You will be hearing more about our congregation discussing these issues in the fall.

✦Yours in Christ, Rev. Ed

Church Connectors...



Church Connectors help us make connections at OPC.

Who are they? Church connectors are the people who were formerly called Pastoral Care Visitors, and also people who help to connect people to and within the OPC community in various ways. Like these building toys they are colourful and diverse and lots of fun to work with!

What are your connections at Oakridge Presbyterian Church? Send an email, send a note, make a call or

drop in for a visit ... tell us how you are connected in this community, how you would like to be connected, or if you know of someone who should be connected with a visit.

Want connection? Contact Wilma Boyce (519)471-2290)

We recently had a great way of connecting a number of people through an 8 week Grief Support Group facilitated by Grace Tall-

man. Eight group members from inside (5) and outside (3) the church met in what they called 'a cozy, casual and safe environment' – our church - and were a great support to each other. All of them expressed appreciation of the opportunity to be part of a group where others were experiencing similar losses. ...A big 'thank you' to Grace for her leadership in this area.

Congratulations!



The Courtesy Committee of Session congratulates those in the OPC congregation who are graduating in 2017, and wish them well in the future.

Elementary School: Riley Kontio – Grade 8 – Matthews' Hall; Ethan Kelly – Grade 8 – John Dearness P.S.; Chris Lee – Grade 8 – Riverside P.S.

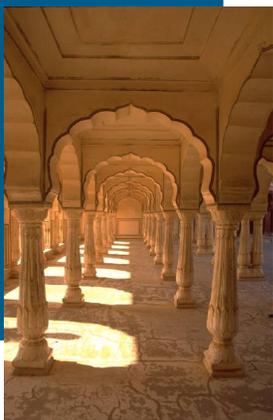
Secondary School: Nathaniel Oudyk – Grade 12 –

Laurier Secondary School; Eric Vandevrie – Grade 12 – Strathroy District Collegiate Institute; Kaitlyn Duncan – Grade 12 – Parkside Collegiate, St. Thomas

College/University: Sul (Gracie) Cheong – Early Childhood Education – Fanshawe College; Emily Oudyk – B.A. – Second Language Teaching and Psychology – University of

Ottawa; Jonathon Zwart – Kings' College, Western University; Shaelah Buckley – Bachelor of Social Work – Kings' College, Western University; Jaesun Yong – Construction Management – Fanshawe College; Ted Kim – Fanshawe College; Naomi Jiyoung Chong – Dental Hygiene – Fanshawe College

Changes....



In Memorium – We extend our condolences to the families of the following OPC Members and Adherents who passed away recently: Jack Klue – January; Donna Saunders – February; Dougal Cameron – March; Peggy Clark – March; Anna McAlpine – April.

New Babies – We welcome these new babies born to OPC Members and Adherents: a daughter to Tim and Natalie Jenkins – January
Baptism – We celebrate the baptism of: Esther, daughter of John and Grace Park - May; Brian, son of Bum Sik Song and Me Jin Lee - February.

New Members – welcome to new members in January: Gideon Anyambot; Dinla Anyambot; Jenna Bae; Megan Ham; Raran Kim; Neil Klassen; Me Jin Lee; Bumsik Song; Grant McCumber; Wendy McCumber.

Bells A'ringin'...



Four members of the Oakridge Spirit Ringers attended the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers Festival at McMaster University in Hamilton May 25-27. Sheila Starling, Diane Irving, Janet Donkervoort, and Doris McKinley attended workshops to improve their skills, practiced with other Copper level choirs,

practiced with the 'massed choir', listened to mini-concerts, and had lots of laughs together from the Thursday to Saturday.

The festival culminated with a performance at McMaster Saturday evening. The mass choir of almost 300 ringers performed O Canada, Jesus Loves Me, Winter Meditation, Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning, and Triumphant Spirit. As part of the Copper choir, they performed For the Beauty of

the Earth, A Disciple's Prayer, and Carol of the Huron.

Doris won a door prize of several copies of 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' which she has, along with a book of reproducible bell classics, generously donated to the Spirit Ringers. The Oakridge Spirit Ringers meet Wednesday afternoons to practice. If you are interested in exploring handbell ringing, we'd love to meet you! Please contact Judy Reisling or any of the Spirit Ringers.

Our Special Appeal is 'Putting God First' to help OPC in our mission.

Special Appeal....

As our June "Putting God First" Appeal enters its last week we thank those who have responded. We encourage prayerful consideration of your response to the campaign goals in support of the work of God if you have not yet done so. Special offering envelopes are available in the pews, and Envelope Sec-

retary Nancy Martin may be contacted to initiate, or to increase a pre-authorized donation plan. The goals of the appeal remain to:

1. Raise \$25,000 in one time gifts and
2. Increase on-going givings by 10% so that church operations can be adequately sustained

We look forward to sharing the results of the Putting God First Appeal with you.

Prayerfully,
Finance & Technology Team

Upcoming events.....

While many programmes 'settle down' during the summer, there are still things happening at OPC. **Vacation Bible School** is July 10-14; there is always room for more volunteers. Please contact Sonia Brule! **Church picnic/Community BBQ**, Sunday, August 13, 3-7pm. **Youth Group** will meet once a month in July and August.

Check with your group to find out what else may be happening over the summer with your group.

The **Adult Library** is open and has a large selection of books on a variety of subjects for men and women to read. Whether you want just a fiction to relax with or something to study and learn from, the library is sure to

have something to pique your interest. Come in and borrow a book or two. And, it's never too early to plan for Fall: **Women's Fall Breakfast**, September 23, 9-11 am. (featured guests: 'The Bean ladies' with fun demos and try a sample of their hand-made, homemade products).



Ministers: Rev. Ed Hoekstra
 Rev. John Park
 Korean Ministry: Rev. Susan Lee
 Pastoral Care: Wilma Boyce
 Children's Programmes: Sonia Brule
 Music Programmes: David Buckley
 Office: Kathy MacDonald
 Business: Michael McCallum
 Custodian: Lawrence Mizzi

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Message from the Editor:

Look for our next issue soon after Labour Day letting you know what's on for the Fall. Remember to check the OPC website and facebook page to keep up with what's happening!

✦ **Janet Donkervoort**

P.S. The Oakleaf is always happy to receive submissions! JD



Mission and Outreach Team

The Mission and Outreach Team is involved in many activities within OPC, within the London community, and in the wider world, as you can see by the following chart. There are many ways in which you could be involved with these mission activities. If you feel called to participate in any of them or would just like some more information, please feel free to talk to those listed here.

Ministries	Personnel
Chair	David R. Elliott
Past-chair	Olive Bell
Secretary	Heather Whittle
Men's Mission Sandwiches	Nancy Elliott
Rotholme Women/Family Shelter	Nancy Elliott
Used Stamps/Glasses Ministries	Clara Woudenberg
Mission Awareness	Diane Staines
Transforming Mission Team	Ian Buchanan
Transportation	David Feenstra, Beth Duncan
Camp Kintail	Tom Cobban
Syrian Refugees	Jackie Hoekstra
Afghanistan Project	David R. Elliott
Publicity	Clara Woudenberg
Evangelistic Literature Rack	
Short-term Missions Projects	Olive Bell
Food Grains Project	Clara Woudenberg