



**Oak Hills Presbyterian Church**

# Church Profile

Oak Hills pulpit committee  
January, 2011

## Oak Hills – A Brief History

In the mid 90's, West Hills Community Church had a vision to plant a church in Lee's Summit – East of Kansas City 20 minutes. Scott Sauls, West Hill's Associate Pastor, organized a group of families to form the core who would become Oak Hills. On Nov. 1st, 1998 they drew up a charter and became an official church plant of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).



*Oak Hills Presbyterian Church.*

On Jan. 9 2000, Oak Hills moved from Lee's Summit to Overland Park, Kansas to be more centrally located in the Kansas City area. Since then OHPC has met in several locations in Overland Park starting with a public high school, later a cultural arts center, a hotel, and currently a private catholic high school. In spite of not having our own facility and permanent meeting location the Oak Hills family has continued to grow and develop.

Pastor Russ Ramsey was brought on staff as Associate Pastor to assist Scott in Jan. 2003. Later that summer, Scott accepted a call to church plant in St. Louis, and by the end of the year, the church had elected Russ to assume the role of Pastor. Shortly after Scott departed, Oak Hills hired Pastor Jon Dunning to oversee ministry to youth and families. We have seen a lot of external changes, but through them all have seen the Lord protecting the health of this church. We look forward with great anticipation to what He will continue to do in the days and years ahead.

### **Our Current Situation**

In May, 2010, Pastor Russ Ramsey advised the Session of his acceptance of a call to another PCA congregation in Tennessee. Oak Hills voted to release Pastor Russ from his call to Oak Hills, and immediately the Session began working to assemble and install a Pulpit Committee to search for our new undershepherd. Since Russ' departure, Associate Pastor Jon Dunning has stepped up, serving Oak Hills in the pulpit adding to his regular preaching schedule, his ministry to the youth and many other administrative and pastoral roles he's been responsible for since beginning at Oak Hills in 2003. Jon also has shared the pulpit with several ordained friends of Oak Hills along with pulpit supply from other local PCA clergymen.



*Elder John Miller, deacon Ted Mabie and Boyd Shearon chat after church.*

### **The Constitution of the PCA**

Every PCA church, including Oak Hills, believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, is without error, and contains everything we need to know about having a right relationship with Him.

The Bible is the basis for all of our essential beliefs, and it is the authority against which our constitutional documents are evaluated. All of our doctrinal standards are subordinate to the inerrant Word of God.

## A Brief History, continued

We adhere to the Westminster Confession of Faith as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures. Furthermore Oak Hills adheres to a scriptural form of church government, Presbyterian, as outlined in the Book of Church Order of the PCA.

The PCA recognizes the following as the constitution and doctrinal standards of the denomination:

- *Westminster Confession of Faith*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism*
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism*
- *Book of Church Order of the PCA.*



*Pastor Jon Dunning baptizing Molly, daughter of Josh and Sara Stewart.*

### **Our Presbytery**

Heartland Presbytery is a solid community of elders committed to faithfully serving the Lord through the PCA in the state of Kansas. There are currently nine churches in the presbytery; two churches in Wichita, a mission church in Manhattan, and 6 churches in the greater Kansas City area, and of these nine, two of them have called their first pastor within the last five years.

Our size and geography have allowed us to maintain a collegial brotherhood and to work together for the growth of the kingdom. We have put on a camp for middle school and high school students for the last three summers (this year we separated these into two camps), and

we are currently pursuing presbytery involvement in word and deed ministry in Kansas City, Kansas.

Pastors in the Kansas City area enjoy meeting monthly for prayer and fellowship. It is our prayer that God would give us a greater vision for the spread of the Gospel throughout the state of Kansas and around the world.



*An Oak Hills Sunday morning worship service led by Heidi Toren and Rick Pierce.*

# Oak Hills Mission, Values & Heritage

## ***Our mission is rooted in grace.***

Our mission is to proclaim the whole Gospel to the whole person in our community and throughout the whole world, equipping individuals and families to learn to know and enjoy God; respond to Him through authentic worship and godly living; and lead others to do the same -- all by the grace of God and all for His glory.

## ***Our values are compelled by love.***

### **Worship**

Oak Hills is a community of people defined by the loving, gracious, and compassionate call of our sovereign God to worship Him. Because of His great love, through the work of His Son, and by the presence of His Spirit, we have the freedom to own our brokenness and to deeply rejoice in our God. Worship is our awed response to His great love for us and our heart's prayer to know Him more fully and to love Him more completely in every aspect of our lives.

### **Doctrine**

We humbly stand before God and each other with the confidence of eternity because God Himself has spoken into our world and continues to speak through His word. As a fellowship of adults and kids, men and women, moms and dads, sons and daughters, we are united in Jesus as we pursue Him in community through the Bible. We are a broken people redeemed by our loving Savior, and we long to understand, submit to, and ultimately be shaped by God's truth.

### **People**

We are convinced that we have a calling to love one another deeply and honestly. We believe that God intends to use the community of Oak Hills in every way to deepen our love for Jesus, one another, and the community around us. We make it a priority for Oak Hills to be a safe and natural place to be known and to know

each other, a place where people enjoy the freedom to be honest about themselves, their weaknesses, and their struggles with God and other people. In Jesus we know God's pleasure, His joy, and His peace. And we know what it is to live without needing to fear anything, hide from anyone, or prove anything. We believe it is only in this context that we can grow together in our love of God and love for others.

### **Mission**

We have been commissioned to take the glorious gospel of God's saving grace to every nation, beginning with our own community. History is bound up with God's commitment to redeem for Himself a people from every race, tribe, tongue, and nation. We are busy asking the Lord to show us the needs around us and to grant us the courage, passion, and wisdom to engage those needs with Christ's love.

## ***Our heritage is connected to truth.***

As reformed Presbyterians, our roots trace back to the 16th and 17th century Reformation when people like Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and others led the church in recovering biblical Christianity. Their passion was a faith that emphasized salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone, the Divine inspiration of the Old and New Testaments, and the sovereign majesty of God. Our heritage is important to us as it serves to keep us accountable to those who have gone before us, and to challenge us to hold to the truth of God's word in an ever-changing world.

## Oak Hills Ministries



*Elizabeth Walters and Adam Sidor lend their talent to the 2010 Easter worship service.*

### **Worship Arts Ministry**

The call of God's people who are gathered at Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God's redeeming love in Word and Sacrament in a manner that is fitting to our church's culture. Our desire is for our expression of affection for God to be as broad as our convictions of the truth found in God's Word are deep.

The services at Oak Hills Presbyterian Church are designed so that we, the congregation, can enjoy the worship of our Triune God through singing, prayer, giving of tithes and offerings, the preaching of the Word and the observation of the sacraments.

On Sunday mornings, one can expect our services to include many musical styles and genres in the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16). We encourage members to employ their talents in serving in the areas of technology (power point) and artistic expression (seasonal and occasional decorations) in our worship design. In addition, we assemble seasonal choirs for special worship celebrations.

Our goal is to design services that are edifying to believers and intentional in the pursuit of unbelievers; one that incorporates music and arts in worship that is congruent with being a Christian, Reformed, PCA congregation. We

pray that the irresistible grace found in Christ would be evident in the context of a community being transformed by God's Spirit in corporate worship.

### **Missions Ministry**

Oak Hills is in the process of becoming more involved in the global Church and God's people throughout His nations. As a local church, we are pursuing enthusiasm and involvement in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth. Through the leadership of the Missions Committee, Oak Hills is striving toward greater participation in efforts to increase our church's praying, sending, supporting, and going in the way of missions.



*Giving a building a much-needed coat of paint during a Sacred Road mission trip.*

Over the past six years, Oak Hills has been involved with both short-term and long-term mission projects. We have had the joy of serving alongside the ministry of Sacred Road, a ministry passionate about reaching the Yakama people on the reservation in White Swan, Washington. Throughout our partnership with Sacred Road, many of our congregation have given very generously of their time and resources. We are excited about the relationship that the Lord has been deepening with our co-laborers at Sacred Road Ministries.

## Ministries, continued



*Steve Collins sitting with some friends during a recent Yakama Vacation Bible School.*

Oak Hills is also currently supporting missionaries in Romania, as well as leaders within The Navigators. Individual members of our congregation have completed short-term overseas missions projects in a number of countries, including China, Poland, Guatemala, and Haiti.

The last two years at Oak Hills have seen sufficient growth in our missional efforts. An increased vision and repentance over past neglect has catapulted us to our current state which now includes a mission policy and Mission Committee. Although our goal is not to simply create a program, our desire is to see missions become a deeper passion across the ranks of our congregation. As Oak Hills continues to grow as a body of believers, longing to make known the astonishing grace of God, our prayer is that we can make known this grace to others both here and abroad, all for the glory of God and His name sake.

### **Deacons' Ministry**

The deacons understand their call as officers of Oak Hills to serve the needs of the congregation and to lead the congregation in serving others—both inside and outside of the church. The deacons meet monthly to discuss the business of planning projects and to assess specific needs of which they have become aware. They are committed to rolling up their sleeves and

getting their hands dirty in order to foster the attitude of serving and bearing one another's burdens within the congregation of Oak Hills.



*Hannah Mabie and Ruth Sidor admiring a late period Monet at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art during a ladies' "Night At The Museum."*

### **Women's Ministry**

Our prayer for the women of Oak Hills is that they would be well-loved: loving well. We believe that the redeeming, perfect love of Christ compels us to love one another with grace and compassion. It is our desire that Oak Hills women would have opportunities to grow in their knowledge of this truth, and that they would respond with a deeper love for God, each other, and the world. We have many opportunities for this to take place, including weekly Bible studies, monthly support and fellowship groups, a wonderful annual women's retreat, and providing hospitality services to those in our church family who have a need.

## Ministries, continued

### **Community Life Ministry**

Community is an essential part of being an authentic place for the Gospel to have its work in our lives. We work hard to create and foster community for those who call Oak Hills their home. There are a variety of ways this happens, including regularly meeting together to study God's word in Adult Sunday School, making new friends at all-church events, and deepening our relationships through Community Group life.



*Russ McGuire and deacon Bill Burns serving hotdogs during one of the many church picnics held throughout the year. Oak Hills loves hotdogs.*

Our prayer is that Community Groups would provide an opportunity for members and friends to connect with each other deeply in the context of a small group of people. As we seek to grow as a church, small groups increasingly become important as each of us learns to know and enjoy God and pursues godly living. We long for these groups to be about honest, Gospel-centered relationships, interaction with God's word, and embracing opportunities to serve others—both inside and outside the group.



*Building community, one young adult at a time. Quid-dity's weekly gathering of college-age adults is fun for all!*

### **Student Ministry**

The mission of Oak Hills Student Ministries is to speak the truth of the gospel into the lives of students, calling them to embrace the unflinching love of God through Christ, love his Church, and serve his kingdom in the world — all by the grace of God and for his glory.

To those ends, students in grades 7 through 12 have a variety of opportunities to get together. Once a month all students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to First Sunday, a time to hang out, worship God through singing and prayer, and hear from God's word. Most Sunday mornings Sunday school classes (separate middle school and high school) meet for solid biblical teaching. Semi-monthly, high school girls and high school guys meet for Saturday morning Bible studies. Students also have a number of social events and service projects throughout the year in order to engage with each other, have fun, and serve the world through the Gospel. Further, our young people are encouraged to live out the gospel as a part of the greater church—by serving in the nursery, on the Worship team, on a Set-up team, and in many other ways.

## Ministries, continued



*Daniel Johnson, deacon Curt Mauk, elder Mark Sloan and pastor Russ Ramsey strategize over Wii bowling during a New Year's Eve party.*

### **Men's Ministry**

The Men's Ministry of Oak Hills desires to equip and encourage men to glorify God. We also desire to provide opportunities for men to build friendships with each other. Men's ministry at Oak Hills has not yet realized its full potential, but the men of Oak Hills enjoy several weekly Bible studies, work projects, Monday Night Football fellowship, and an annual Fall Retreat.

### **Children's Ministry**

Oak Hills is blessed with an abundance of children. We delight in the joy and energy they bring on Sunday mornings and we take seriously the responsibility God has placed upon this church for their spiritual nurture. Our prayer as a church is that each of us would somehow be involved in this nurturing of future generations.



*Grace Buckley raises her hand during Promiseland.*

For some this will be in a Sunday School, Promiseland (children's church), or Nursery classroom setting; for others it's a smile and a kind word on a Sunday morning. We desire that in all aspects of Oak Hills Children's Ministry, God will be glorified in the way we invest in the precious lives He has entrusted to parents within this church, and therefore to the church itself.

# Oak Hills: By The Numbers

## **Finance & Attendance overview**

|      | Expenses  | Revenues  | Attendance |
|------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 2004 | \$261,116 | \$208,305 | n/a        |
| 2005 | \$255,771 | \$221,276 | 177        |
| 2006 | \$271,592 | \$273,204 | 189        |
| 2007 | \$302,335 | \$295,447 | 206        |
| 2008 | \$304,422 | \$311,728 | 216        |
| 2009 | \$309,479 | \$308,867 | 205        |
| 2010 | \$203,929 | \$195,081 | 187        |

## **2010 Averages and Projections**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Avg. Monthly Giving (last 9 months):   | \$21,676  |
| Avg. Monthly Expenses (last 9 months): | \$22,659  |
| Projected Annual Giving:               | \$260,108 |
| Projected Expenses:                    | \$253,000 |

## **Fund totals**

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| General Fund     | \$74,013  |
| Benevolence Fund | \$3,020   |
| Building Fund    | \$66,089  |
| Total            | \$143,122 |

## **Demographics**

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 0-17 yrs. | 108 |
| 18-25     | 24  |
| 25-50     | 135 |
| 50+       | 12  |

## About Overland Park, Kansas

Oak Hills is located in Overland Park, KS—one of America's "Top 100 Places to Live" in 2010. When incorporated as a first-class city on May 20, 1960, Overland Park's population was 28,085. Now, with more than 173,000 residents, it is the second most populous city in Kansas. The city's roots sprouted in 1905 with the arrival of William B. Strang Jr., who platted subdivisions along the interurban railway he operated between Kansas City and the county seat of Olathe. Strang envisioned a "park-like" community that was self-sustaining and well planned. He also sought strong commerce, quality education, vibrant neighborhoods, convenient transportation and accommodating recreational facilities.

Three of the nation's highest-performing school districts – Blue Valley, Olathe and Shawnee Mission – along with Johnson County Community College and the University of Kansas-Edwards Campus, contribute to Overland Park's status as one of the highest-educated populations in the country. There are also a number of excellent Christian schools and home educator cooperatives in the greater Kansas City area. A large number of the families at Oak Hills have chosen to utilize homeschooling or Christian schools.

Overland Park residents enjoy a cost of living below the national average. Low housing costs allow residents more house for less money. The city's property tax is the lowest in the state. Five award-winning hospitals serve residents' health care needs.

When residents are ready to have fun, they have a variety of cultural and recreational amenities from a contemporary art museum to a beautiful 300 acre arboretum and botanical garden. In addition to 79 parks, 62 miles of trails, and numerous golf courses, the city boasts a one-of-a-kind soccer complex that hosts many local, regional and national soccer tournaments, including the US Youth Soccer National Championships in July. Next door this venue is the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, which gives

visitors a hands-on lesson about our agrarian past with farm animals, gardens, dairy barn, one-room schoolhouse and replica Native American earth lodge. Overland Park has 250 restaurants, but perhaps the most well-loved by the locals are those serving-up Kansas City Barbecue. Residents also have convenient access to the attractions of the Kansas City metro, including two internationally known art museums, a blockbuster concert venue, and a smattering of sports teams and venues. Known as "The City of Fountains"- Kansas City ranks second in the world in number of fountains erected in the city. Only Rome, Italy, has more.

With more than 7,000 businesses, Overland Park offers an environment conducive for business growth. Headquartered in Overland Park are two Fortune 500 companies – Sprint Nextel and YRC Worldwide – as well as private companies with worldwide connections like Black & Veatch. The economy has weathered the events of the past few years well, with more than 3,500 new jobs added in the past year.

## Pastor Job Description

The Pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to provide spiritual and pastoral leadership to the people of Oak Hills, the Session, and the staff, in carrying out the mission of Oak Hills. He will function as a member of the Heartland Presbytery, as the moderator of the Session, as the chief overseer of the paid staff, and as a primary contact for the areas of ministry under his oversight.

The Pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to provide oversight and leadership to the people of Oak Hills primarily in these areas:

**Corporate Worship:** He will lead and oversee the corporate worship services, which includes the preaching of the Word and the regular celebration of the Sacraments. He will work with the Director of Worship Arts to plan and execute services. He will preach regularly (roughly 40 Sundays/year), allowing for other pastors/elders/outside speakers to preach as well.

**Vision and Leadership Development:** Lead the Session in setting the course for the church and its ministries. Cultivating, training, encouraging, and multiplying leaders in the carrying out of the vision.

**Shepherding:** Oversight and leadership of the ongoing spiritual nurture of those under care of Oak Hills' leadership. This includes providing pastoral care for the elders and staff, counseling, and visitation.

**Community Life (Adults):** Provide vision and support to ministries aimed at helping the people of Oak Hills build relationships with each other while growing in their knowledge and enjoyment of God and His Holy Word.

It is preferred that the Pastor of Oak Hills have at least eight years of experience in full-time ministry. He must possess a graduate level degree in theological studies from an accredited Seminary or divinity school, along with the ongoing pursuit or completion of ordination in the PCA, and specifically the Heartland Presbytery.

He must possess a desire to work as a part of a ministry team and he must possess excellent organizational skills and the ability to oversee a range of ministries by way of training, equipping, and encouraging Oak Hills lay leaders and officers.

**A Note on Flexibility:** The Session of Oak Hills acknowledges that in this time of transition, there must be flexibility in roles and duties according to the resources God appoints.

## Associate Pastor Job Description

The Associate Pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to provide spiritual and pastoral leadership to the people of Oak Hills, with a focused emphasis on developing, equipping and maintaining Oak Hills' ministries of Community Life, Christian Education and Assimilation by focusing on the strategies of ministry and leadership development listed in this job description.

The Associate Pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to serve as an active member of the Session, as a primary contact for the areas of ministry under his oversight and as part of the staff team, working to carrying out the overall mission of Oak Hills. He is also to function as an active member of the Heartland Presbytery.

The Pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church is to provide oversight and leadership to the people of Oak Hills primarily in these areas:

**Community Life and Discipleship:** Oversee and disciple the leaders of these ministries with some direct involvement in planning and executing each specific ministry. Much of this work will center around meeting with leaders and volunteers. Specific Oversight includes nursery, children, and student ministries; men's and women's ministry; and community groups.

**Christian Education:** In working with the Christian Education team, oversee the ministry of Christian Education for all ages.

**Assimilation:** Develop and implement a plan for helping people connect at Oak Hills. This includes evaluating talents and spiritual gifts and helping members function effectively, helping new attendees become relationally engaged with the people of Oak Hills, and overseeing the membership process.

Oak Hill's Associate Pastor must possess a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited Seminary or divinity school, along with either the ongoing pursuit or the completion of ordination in the PCA, and specifically the Heartland Presbytery.

He must possess a desire to work as a part of a ministry team and he must possess excellent organizational skills and the ability to oversee a range of ministries by way of training, equipping and encouraging Oak Hills' lay leaders and officers.

**A Note on Flexibility:** The Session of Oak Hills acknowledges that in this time of transition, there must be flexibility in roles and duties according to the resources God appoints.

## **Part time staff positions**

### ***Director of Worship Arts***

Working under the authority of the Session and the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor; to capture and articulate a vision and philosophy of incorporating music and arts in worship that is congruent with being a Christian, Reformed, PCA congregation and to implement that vision and philosophy with and through other staff and volunteers in worship services for the church.

### ***Administrative Assistant***

Working under the authority of the Session and the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor; to assist the operations of the church office through various tasks including bulletin preparation, congregational communication, financial organization, and many office details.