



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

April 2016

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

### Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr.

Interim Minister

Rev. David K. McMillan

Pastor Emeritus

Dennis Elwell

Minister of Music

Sharon Parker

Director of Christian Education

Margene Biedermann

Junior Choir Director

Roseann Christian

Office Manager

Earlene Ford

Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins

Custodian

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

## *Letter from the Pastor*

*“What a Friend We Have”*

The girl was a junior in High School. She had started dating a very nice young man; she thought he was wonderful. She was in love for the first time in her life, and it was terrific. He was kind to her. He was generous to her. He did not press her to do things she did not want to do. He said all of the right things at just the right time. He was one of the most popular boys in school where she had always felt on the outside looking in. She could not believe her good fortune.

But after a while, she began to notice that they never did things with his friends. They never double dated. He never held her hand in public. As wonderful as it was, it was always just the two of them. If she came up to him when he was with a circle of people, he took the earliest opportunity to break away. He always had a good reason for this, but she began to wonder if he did not want to be seen with her. She was so proud of him, but he never wanted others to see them together. She was afraid to think it, but she could not help herself; was he ashamed to be seen with her?

In the same way, we have made a friend called Jesus. But too often, it is just a private affair. We do not take Him out into public. It is as if we do not want to be seen with Him. We do not talk about Him with friends. We say all the right things in private. We might even be generous to Him. But we do not publicly acknowledge Him.

I wonder; does Jesus suspect that we are embarrassed to be seen with Him?

Take the opportunity to be public about Jesus. Come to church every Sunday because it is the right and wise and holy and healing and filling thing to do. But do not let that be the only time you acknowledge Jesus as your friend and partner in life.

He is our best friend; He gives us everything that we can possibly need. He never leaves us to the storms and currents of this world. But remember that friendship goes both ways. We need to be willing to be seen with Him out in public in the daily walk of our life.

—Drew

## Sundays in April

April 10, 2016

Third Sunday in Easter  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Trudy Sheau  
Acolyte: Adam Shah

April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Easter  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Elizabeth Cosgriff  
Acolyte: Pearl Stricker

April 24, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Easter  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Raelyn Harman  
Acolyte: Maya Mendoza

# Mission & Outreach



We are ready to kick-off our campaign for One Great Hour of Sharing. This program puts your donations to work in four ways: water projects, hunger projects, disaster relief, and empowerment

Many people don't have access to clean drinking water. They will spend a large part of their day bringing water to their home. Through the water projects, dams and wells are established to provide access to water where it is needed.

As part of the hunger relief program, seeds and training are provided to people, so they can learn to farm. With sufficient seeds, they are able to sell excess vegetables to provide their family with additional items for their table.

There is no telling when disaster will strike. So much is needed in the first 24 hours to limit the tragic losses. One Great Hour of Sharing has the funds ready and the systems in place to immediately deploy resources where they are needed most. They can be on the ground helping, before other programs are set up to collect donations.

Over the next two weeks, we will be sharing with you how your donations have helped people around the world in the past. Your donations will go to where there is the greatest need to support on-going projects and programs, with a portion saved for disaster relief in the future.

Your children can help too! They will receive a fish bank in which to collect their coins. No donation is too small and they will be able to help support other children in need. Use the special envelopes provided in the pews or make your check out to the church with OGHS in the memo line. Thank you.

## Women's Dining Circle

Welcome Spring! The next gathering of the Women's Dining Circle will be held on **Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd** at the home of Elizabeth Cosgriff. Come and enjoy the warmer weather, good food and fellowship.

Our speaker will be from Nurse-Family Partnership, which is a program that works with poor first-time mothers from the time their baby is born through the next two years. A nurse works with the family on all sorts of health related and developmental issues, provides resources and education to the mothers, and keeps track of the child's progress. It has been shown to improve all sorts of outcomes later; school performance, poverty levels of the family, etc. We hope you can join us.



## Looking Ahead...

The Mission and Outreach Committee and the Christian Education Committee are jointly sponsoring an **Overbrook Talks and Walks** event on Monday, May 9, as we continue to strengthen our bond with Thailand that began so many years ago when the church raised money to give an ambulance to the hospital in Chiang Rai that is now called Overbrook Hospital. In May, our guests will be Barry & Shelly Dawson, Presbyterian missionaries based in Bangkok, who work in nine countries in Southeast Asia.

Come at 6:00 p.m. for a Thai buffet and stay for the power point presentation with time for discussion.

# Congregational Life



## The Mission Study Group ...

Is almost done! The next step is to give our report to the Pulpit Nominating Committee for its use in completing the CIF, which is a sort of “Church Resume” for pastoral candidates to learn more about our church. We DID NOT ask you to describe your “ideal pastor” in our study process. If you would like to do this, please write it out and mail to the church office or drop in the box located on the table outside the church office. Your descriptions should be submitted by April 30. Thank you.

## New Church Office Manager...



Roseann Christian was recently hired as our new Office Manager. She comes to us with extensive relevant experience since she had worked as an Office Manager for the last 14 years at the Ardmore United Methodist Church where she is also an active member. Roseann is very friendly, patient and super organized. She is an accomplished caterer and florist. Roseann won first prize at the 2016 Flower Show right here in Philadelphia! Roseann loves working with volunteers and looks forward to meeting all of you. Please extend a warm OPC welcome to Roseann.

## OPC Family Film Library

Want to plan a family film and game night? Looking for activities to share with your visiting grandchildren? Stop by the Wistar Morris Room and sign out a DVD or game...be sure to grab a bag of complimentary microwave popcorn!!



## Oral History Project Update

A group of dedicated volunteers continue to interview members (current and former) to record what their experience has been at OPC. The goal is to capture a snapshot of OPC in this era and how it has changed. We are interested in people who have been involved with OPC for short and long periods of time. Interviews generally take no more than one hour and are a great opportunity to get to know people better. If you are interested in joining us to conduct interviews, we would be happy to add to our ranks. We help in every way we can with guidelines and “tech support”. We’d like to add the transcripts of the interviews to the information the church is gathering for its self-study in preparation for calling a new pastor. If you are interested in sharing your OPC story, please let me know. I can be contacted via email at [raelynkay@aol.com](mailto:raelynkay@aol.com) or by phone at 610-331-8972.

-Blessings, Raelyn

Acknowledgement and Appreciation for the wonderful support of NCT’s Benefit Performance on March 9. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of live theater, joyful fellowship, desserts/refreshments, and all the while, raising additional funds towards OPC’s operating budget. We raised \$1,100 that evening.

With the NCT’s season ending with their production of Brighton Beach, in May, on behalf of Janet Bowker and myself, much thanks given for the support given towards our NCT concession endeavor where again, proceeds are earmarked for OPC’s operating budget.

-Trudy Sheau

## Financial Report

| January 2016   | ACTUAL       | BUDGET       | YTD ACTUAL   | YTD BUDGET   |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue  | \$ 69,868.12 | \$ 46,446.61 | \$ 69,868.12 | \$ 46,446.61 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 29,982.45 | \$ 46,008.37 | \$ 29,982.45 | \$ 46,008.37 |
| Net            | \$ 39,885.67 | \$ 438.24    | \$ 39,885.67 | \$ 438.24    |

# Congregational Life

## Urban/Suburban Book Club



Meeting: Tuesday, April 19-Noon

Location: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

### April Selection:

Eternal Wonder by Pearl S. Buck

This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.

-Edelene Carroll

## April Coffee Hour Hosts



April 10

Baker and Duckworth Families

April 17

Bowker & Parris/Seidel Families

April 24

Elizabeth Bouzarth and Gloria Brabham

## Weekly Events in April

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sundays    | 9:15 AM Junior Choir<br>9:15 AM Adult Forum<br>10:30 AM Worship<br>11:30 AM Coffee Hour |
| Wednesdays | 10:00 AM Bible Study<br>8:00 PM Bible Study ( <i>first/third week</i> )                 |
| Thursdays  | 10:30 AM Meal at Calvin<br>6:30 PM Bell Choir<br>8:00 PM Choir                          |

# Christian Education



## Summer Dreamin': Summer Events for Children and Youth

As OPC families begin to plan summer camp and vacation schedules, the Christian Education Committee hopes you will consider the following great opportunities for your children:

### Vacation Bible School

"All Creatures of our God and King" - August 7-11, 5-7:30 p.m. Children, Pre-K through Grade 5 are invited to participate in this series of fun-filled, faith-based science adventures!

### PC-USA Youth Triennium-July 19-23-Purdue University

We would love to have OPC high school youth join the Philadelphia Presbytery student delegation to our national youth conference. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to participate in a national church dialogue, grow in faith, and have a preview of college campus life.

### Youth in Mission

Middle and High School students...pack your bags and let's head to Broad Street Ministry! We'll be participating in their Summer Youth Initiative from July 31-August 4.

### Summer Camp?

Think Kirkwood! Please check out this wonderful Church-sponsored summer camp. A great adventure awaits. ([kirkwoodcamp.org](http://kirkwoodcamp.org))

For more information, contact Sharon Parker ([Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org))

# Christian Education

## OPC's Opportunity for Adults

### April's Adult Forum

#### Discipleship in Action: The Works and Worship of OPC

Adult forum meets each Sunday morning in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Throughout April, we will be learning about the mission and ministry of our diverse Overbrook Committees, and most especially about those who have been called to serve. We will also learn more about the challenges confronting these teams as they respond to the needs of the congregation and to the Gospel message...Come learn with us...come join us in prayer for the OPC's continuing ministries. The welcome is warm...the coffee hot!

### OPC Talks...and Walks

Monday, April 25—7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel

OPC member, Jim Stephens will lead an engaging program on Stewardship of the Earth: A Discussion on Global Warming

### OPC Youth on the Move!



On Sunday, April 24, OPC Youth are invited to attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service at our neighboring congregation, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. On that Sunday, the St. Thomas Gospel Choir will be singing throughout the service. Following worship, our youth will walk to lunch at the Italian Village Restaurant on 63rd Street. All interested youth should meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.; we will walk to St. Thomas at that time. Please sign up in the Wistar Morris Room, or contact either Jason Sheau or Sharon Parker.

### Sunday School Teachers'

#### Lunch Meeting

April 10 at Noon-Youth Room

All teachers, and those who wish to teach, are invited to share lunch and discuss the OPC Christian Education program. Our goal is to assess our current program and to envision an even stronger faith formation program for 2016-2017.



### Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings 10:00-11:30  
McMillian Chapel

Rev. Drew Mann welcomes all OPC members and friends to participate in a study of the Gospel of Luke. Adult Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning from 10:00—11:30 in the Chapel

### A New Bible Study

Due to congregant request, an "evening edition" of Adult Bible Study is now being offered. Sessions will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Please join Dr. Mann from 8:00 to 9:00 in the Williamson Room.

## OPC Youth Weekend Retreat May 27 - 28

All OPC Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to camp out and cook out at the church from 6:00 PM May 27 to 6:00 PM May 28. Great adventures are planned, as we explore all areas of our historic church, engage in a great mission project, cook our own meals...and have fun. If you haven't already made your reservation, please do so by contacting Sharon Parker (Sharon@overbrookpresb.org)

**CAMPING  
OUT PARTY**



### Exploring True Grit

OPC member, and noted University of Pennsylvania professor of psychology, Angela Duckworth, will be speaking at an upcoming Author Event at the Free Library of Philadelphia on Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 PM. The topic of Angela's presentation will be *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, which is also the title of her recently released book. This program is offered at no charge...all are welcome.

## Deacons

### April Birthdays

- 4/2 Benjamin Bryant  
Maya Stricker
- 4/3 Vimala Johnson
- 4/5 Jason Duckworth  
Annabelle Van Rawley
- 4/7 Alan Sigler; Lucy Duckworth
- 4/9 Bethany Bryant  
Vincent Gilhool
- 4/1- Blake Hotek  
Maya Subramanian  
Janine Miller
- 4/11 Madison Harden
- 4/12 Lavinia Savage
- 4/13 Artia Benjamin
- 4/16 Susan Brastow  
Ellen Burr
- 4/21 Andrea Knight
- 4/22 Richard Owens
- 4/24 Angela Duckworth
- 4/25 Victor Fiorillo
- 4/27 Andrew Kaercher



### Prayer List

*For our homebound members and friends:*  
Mary VandenBerge, Binnie Savage, Bette Ann Johnson, and Judith Schwartz.

*For those facing a loss:*

Leonard Robbins and his family on the loss of Leonard's son, James.

The Gavin Family following the death of Brenda Gavin.

Madelon Cogdill's sister, following the death of Madelon Cogdill on Easter Sunday.

*For those facing a health challenge:*

Ellen Burr and Joan Taubel

Amarilis Stricker for her continued recovery

*Please contact one of our Deacons to add names or concerns to this list. We can be reached by email from the church website, by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of the Deacons in person.*

## April Calendar

|             |          |  |
|-------------|----------|--|
| Tuesday 4/5 | 1:00 pm  | Worship & Music Committee                                |
|             | 7:00 pm  | Finance Committee  |
| Wed. 4/6    | 10:00 am | Bible Study  |
|             | 4:30 pm  | Property Committee Meeting                               |
| Thurs. 4/7  | 8:00 pm  | Choir  |
| Tues. 4/12  | 7:00 pm  | Session  |
| Wed. 4/13   | 10:00 am | Bible Study  |
| Thurs. 4/14 | 6:30 pm  | Bell Choir   |
|             | 8:00 pm  | Choir  |
| Sat. 4/16   | 8:00 am  | Prayer Breakfast   |
| Sun. 4/17   | 12:00 pm | Christian Ed. Meeting                                    |
| Tues. 4/19  | 12:00 pm | Urban/Suburban Book Club (Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church) |
| Sun. 4/24   | 12:00 pm | Mission & Outreach Meeting                               |
| Mon. 4/25   | 7:00 pm  | OPC Walks & Talks  |
| Wed. 4/27   | 10:00 am | Bible Study  |
| Thur. 4/28  | 6:30 pm  | Bell Choir   |
|             | 8:00 pm  | Choir  |

### Meeting Space is Needed for OPC Programing

It is wonderful that our building is used by so many people in the community. It gives us the opportunity to let many people learn about what is going on in our church. The building use fees received greatly assist in meeting our financial goals. However, sometimes we cannot convene meetings on our premises when needed due to lack of unoccupied space. Groups such as the confirmation class, Bible study, youth group, committee meeting, etc., occasionally need to find someplace other than OPC to get together.

Can your nearby home or office accommodate small groups or people for relatively short meetings? If you are able and willing to share your space, please let Sharon Parker or the church office know. We'll keep a "master list" of possible locations and call to schedule in advance and at your convenience. NO other duties are expected of the host. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and praise God for the overflow of people affiliated with OPC.

-Raelyn

### Save The Date:

April 23, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Spring Ice Cream Social

Turn the clocks back to 1916 and come to the

"OPC Village Fair"

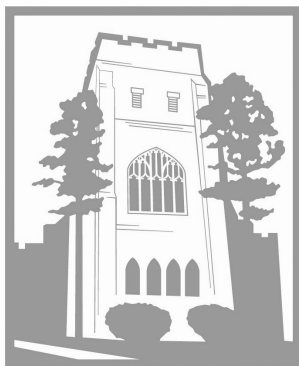
Featuring ice cream buffet, cupcake bar and carnival games for all ages.

From the pie-eating contest, to feats of strength and dexterity, to the fish pond, and hoop rolling contest...there are memories waiting to be made!

Cost: \$ 5 per person; family with more than three \$15. Sponsored by the Christian Education and Stewardship Committees.



## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

[www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org)

## Overbrook Preschool is Turning 50!

Fifty years ago, Overbrook Preschool opened its doors at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Fifty years! That's fifty years of hundreds of children participating in thousands of hours of joyful play-based learning. That's fifty years of many dedicated and skillful staff helping those children develop interpersonal skills and love for learning. That's fifty years of caring parents embracing and enriching the community that nurtured their children. Now it's time to celebrate!



On **April 9, 2016, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**, there will be an Open House for all present and past Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten families. This free event will have food, activities for the children, pictures galore, raffles, and opportunities to visit the classrooms, teachers and former directors. A mosaic mural currently in progress, created by the children with a professional artist, will be unveiled. Past and present OPK families and friends can have their names embossed on tiles in the mosaic for a \$50 donation per tile.

All past or present Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten families and friends are invited to attend. Invitations will be coming soon, **but people move and addresses change**. So please pass the word, and call the office (215-877-8945) to RSVP, give a correct address, buy a tile, share pictures, and congratulate this wonderful school on a half-century of laughter, love and learning.