



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

August 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

*Building Manager*

### *Letter from the Pastor*

**In historic vote, PC (USA) elects J. Herbert Nelson the denomination's top ecclesiastical officer.**

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, the son and grandson and nephew of Presbyterian pastors, was overwhelmingly elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Friday. The action came from the 222nd General Assembly (2016) meeting June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon.

Stated clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson his election is historic. In the more than 300 year history of Presbyterianism in the United States, a black man has never been elected as the top ecclesiastical officer of the church. The denomination is more than 90% white.

Nelson, director of the PC (USA)'s Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., succeeds the Rev. Gradye Parsons in the four-year term. He was installed immediately after being elected and will begin his new position on August 1.

"This is a powerful day, a powerful day in my life and for many people of color who did not envision the possibility of this ever happening," said Nelson, a teaching elder and member of Nation Capital Presbytery.

Nelson was the pick of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee, tasked with presenting a nominee to the assembly, which it did on June 19. We were challenged by the Rev. David M. Baker, stated clerk and communications director for the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, whose name was placed into nomination by Ruling Elder Dan Johnson from Tampa Bay presbytery.

In accepting the new position, Nelson acknowledged his strong foundation as a Presbyterian, and asked the assembly to walk with him in this new journey. "I would not be standing here without a Presbyterian family," he said. "Pray for me, work with me, and not on me." Nelson has a long history of service to the denomination, including as

pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, and organizing pastor for the Liberation Community Church in Memphis, TN. He has led the PC (USA) Washington office since 2010.

### Sundays in August

August 7, 2016

**Communion**

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Jim Lappen

Lay Leader: Ron Homer

**Scripture readings:**

Jonah 1 & 2 - Mark 4: 35-41



August 14, 2016

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Guest Preacher: David McMillan

Lay Leader: Will Schick



August 21, 2016

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Jim Lappen

Lay Leader: Mary Scott

**Scripture Readings:**

Nehemiah 13: 1-3 - Jonah 3 & 4

Mark 11: 15-17



August 28, 2016

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Ellen Williams

Lay Leader: Rachel Carnahan

### Church Office Hours (Summer)

Tuesday—Friday  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

# Congregational Life



## The Pastoral Nominating Committee...

Continues its work with the search for our new Pastor. The PNC will keep the congregation informed of their progress. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as they pursue this most important endeavor.

## August Coffee Hour Hosts

August 7

Mary Scott, Laurie Geers, Kim Parris Mimi Walker

August 14

The Harden Family

August 21

Pat & Ted Dillon and Choir friends

August 28

The Bowker Family



## Home Sweet Home

Earlier this summer a pair of robins took up residency over the light fixture above the door to the sanctuary on the Lancaster Avenue side of the building. We hope the lights didn't keep the kids awake all night!

*Photo by Roseann Christian*

## Save the Date...

OPC Women's Spiritual Retreat

Saturday, October 15

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Center, Bryn Mawr

Leader: Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler



## Attention Volunteers...

The church office is seeking volunteers to answer phones and doorbell two days a week from 9-11:30 on Wednesday and Friday mornings beginning September 19 and continuing through May, 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and church service! The ideal situation would be to have a comprehensive schedule posted in the office for those particular days. If interested, please contact Roseann at the office: [manager@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:manager@overbrookpresb.org). Thank you!

## August Calendar

Sunday, August 7	10:30 Worship ( <i>Communion</i> ) 11:30 Coffee Hour	Guest Preacher: Rev. James Lappen
Sunday, August 14	10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour	Guest Preacher: Rev. David McMillan
Sunday, August 21	10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour	Guest Preacher: Rev. James Lappen
Sunday, August 28	10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour	Guest Preacher: Seminarian Ellen Williams

## Financial Report

April 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 41,101.03	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 212,790.09	\$ 185,786.44
Total Expenses	\$ 58,856.35	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 174,570.38	\$ 184,033.48
Net	\$ (17,755.32)	\$ 438.24	\$ 38,219.71	\$ 1,752.96

# Community



## Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 7-9 p.m.

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

September's Selection: *Sundown Towns* by James W. Loewen

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.

# Christian Education



## Overbrook Green



The Seeds have been planted; the fruits of those labors are growing.

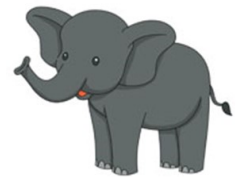
Inspired by Jim Stephens' OPC Talk on Environmental Change, and encouraged through May's Adult Forum discussions, an opportunity for congregational discussion and action has been launched. **Overbrook Green** is that opportunity. The goals of this emerging Initiative are to promote good stewardship of the environment, to honor God's gifts by making Informed lifestyle decisions, and to engage others in treasuring and protecting our natural resources. Monthly, **Overbrook Green** articles in the newsletter and postings on the website will offer program information and articles of interest on environmental preservation. All are welcomed and encouraged to contribute leadership, ideas, and expertise.

Please contact Jim Stephens ([james.stephens@comcast.net](mailto:james.stephens@comcast.net)) or Sharon Parker ([Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) for more information.

## It's Time for Vacation Bible School!!



All OPC children and friends, Pre-K through Grade 5, are invited to come to Vacation Bible School...August 4-11, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This year's theme, *All Creatures of Our God and King*, will lead us on a Bible safari, as we meet the animals who helped tell stories of God's love.



Each evening will feature Bible Stories, faith-based science activities, arts and crafts, and Safari Cinema!

Vacation Bible School is a ministry of the Christian Education Committee.

While there is **no cost to participate**, pre-registration is important for our planning. Please register in one of the following ways: Return the mailer that was recently sent to the homes of all OPC children, email Sharon Parker at [Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org), or by seeing our registrar, Margaret Young after church in the Wistar Morris Room.

The VBS Team will provide fruit and beverages (fruit juice, milk, water) for all participants.

Parents are asked to pack a bagged meal for their child/children each evening.

Children are asked to bring a sense of curiosity and adventure!



# Christian Education

## OPC Youth in Mission!

As this newsletter is going to print, a great team of our OPC Youth is busy packing for this year's mission trip. Thirteen youth and two adults will be serving the urban community at Broad Street Ministry from July 31-August 4. Let us keep our Mission Team in our prayers as their hand do God's work.

Mission is expensive, and often the cost can be deterrent to participation. This year, Overbrook youth have been blessed by the generous offering of the Women's Dining Circle, the funding priority of the Christian Education Committee, and the success of this year's Ice Cream Social. Through these combined efforts, the original cost of \$275.00 per participant was reduced to \$35.00! Blessings to all who made this trip possible for our youth!

## Join the CE All-Star Volunteer Team!

Overbrook is blessed with a growing population of children and youth. In order to maintain and build our programs for children and youth, additional volunteer helpers, chaperones, teachers and drivers with clearances are sorely needed. Pennsylvania law requires all who teach, lead, supervise, and serve children and youth are to have child protection clearances. The process is simple, especially for those who have lived in PA for at least 10 years. Complete the clearances process by stopping at the ALL-CLEAR table in the Wistar Morris after worship. In order to facilitate this effort, computer stations will be available at OPC throughout August.

Clearances can be completed on-line by going to the following links: Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>); Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Check (<http://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>); Mandatory Reporter Certificate (*which is required for those who wish to teach Sunday School or serve as a mission trip leader/chaperone*); (<https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu>).

We encourage those who already have clearances as a requirement of employment, or for other areas of volunteerism, to keep a copy on file with the church. All clearances are secured in the church safe. For assistance with this process please contact Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) or Carol Rozmiarek ([carol@makinmusic.com](mailto:carol@makinmusic.com)). Thank you for supporting the faith formation of our OPC children and youth!

## Meeting Space is Needed for OPC Progaming...

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 greatly help us meet 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 meetings, etc., occasionally need to find someplace other than OPC to get together.

Can your nearby home or office accommodate small groups of 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 will keep a "master list" of possible locations and call to schedule in advance, and at your convenience. NO other duties are required of the host. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and praise God for the overflow of people affiliated with OPC.

-Raelyn



# Christian Education

The Philadelphia Presbytery's delegation to the PC-USA Youth Triennium at Purdue University. OPC was well represented by active youth members Maya Subramanian and Sara Stephens.



## Sizzlin' Summer Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, August 20!



What a better way to celebrate a summer Saturday than at the Sizzlin' Summer Prayer Breakfast...Saturday, August 20 - 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the Wistar Morris Room! The OPC All-Star Kitchen Team will be at the stove, flipping, baking and stirring up the breakfast buffet. In addition to our previous buffet award winners, you'll find samplings of pork roll and scrapple at the "Philly Phavorites Tasting Station!" While the meal will be wonderful, you'll find the intergenerational fellowship and shared prayer to be the finest parts of the morning. Come and enjoy a wonderful meal...share laughter, lift spirits, and celebrate the power and gift of prayer!



Prayer breakfasts are a ministry of the Christian Education Committee. While there is **no charge** for the meal, a free-will offering basket will be available. Offering contributions will support Christian Education programming for all ages. Friends are welcome.

## Christian Education September Date Savers...

**September 11:** Homecoming Sunday. Following worship, come and see Overbrook at its best! Coffee Hour will be held in Fellowship Hall, where all will be able to browse display tables highlighting upcoming special events and featuring the work of our OPC committees. Special activity stations are planned for the children and youth. Homecoming Sunday is a time to explore the diverse ministries of our congregation, to meet our Sunday School teachers, to engage in dialogue with committee leaders and Elders...it's an opportunity for volunteerism.

**September 18:** The Sunday School year begins...and there's a class for everyone! Classes for young learners, Pre-K through Grade 1, will begin immediately following Time with Children and be in session until the conclusion of the worship service. During the hymn following the sermon, students in grades 2-12 will leave the sanctuary and be greeted by their teachers. Sunday School classes for our intermediate and upper level students will conclude at noon.

Life-long learners are welcome to participate in Adult Forum, which meets each Sunday in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15. "The coffee is hot...the welcome's warm!"



Bible Study is on hiatus during the month of August. The Study will resume on Wednesday, September 7th at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

OPC's Opportunity for Adults

**"Iced Tea and Talk"**  
Although Adult Forum is taking a summer break, "Iced Tea and Talk" will be in session each Sunday in August. Join us for lively discussion each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15. Adult Forum will return in September.

## Mission & Outreach

### Women's Dining Circle

#### Women's Dining Circle Milestone...

Women's Dining Circle started in October of 2009 with the goal of creating a series of dinners that provided an opportunity for fellowship as well as raising money to support different charities. At that first dinner we raised \$315.00 which was matched by Mission & Outreach and supported the Heifer Project.

Since our first dinner, we have hosted 30 more dinners, serving over 750 diners, and supporting charities as far reaching as Overbrook Hospital in Thailand and Fikelela Children's Center in South Africa and as close to home as the Food Trust (who run the farmer's market in our parking lot), WEPAC (The West Philadelphia Alliance for Children who work to enhance reading and writing skills for our students by opening and staffing libraries in schools), and our own OPC Youth Missions.

In all, we've supported 28 different charities and are proud to say that, as of our latest dinner in June 2016, we've raised \$20,989 - when matched by the Mission & Outreach Committee budget, that makes over \$40,000 that we've donated. We couldn't have reached this amazing milestone without the support of everyone who attends the dinners and donates so generously, as well as all of our devoted committee members who plan, organize and feed all our wonderful guests.

We look forward to starting a new season of dinners in September. Keep an eye out in the Sunday bulletins and on the church website for announcements of our September dinner, and if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email [carol@makinmusic.com](mailto:carol@makinmusic.com). We'll see you in the fall!

*- Respectfully submitted, Carol Rozmiarek*



*"Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands"*

Want to be a part of something big and incredibly impactful? Members of the Mission & Outreach Committee are in the early stages of staging a MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children ([www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)) in our area, and we need some help. If you are interested, or have questions/ideas, please contact Becky Lazo - [rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com)).



### School Supplies for theVillage...

The response to our request for school supplies for students at theVillage has been very gratifying. Nancy Gilhool and Janet Bowker have already assembled 10 backpacks. There is still time to donate more items. Cash donations are also welcome. Thanks to everyone for responding so generously to this project of the Mission & Outreach Committee.

# Deacons

## August Birthdays!!



8/1	Joan Taubel Maynard Robinson	8/21	Gabriella Miele Jeff Bowker Evan Wilson
8/3	Larry Gavin	8/22	Will Schick
8/4	Allison Partridge	8/23	Bette Ann Johnson Katherine Bowker Peter Seidel Geoffrey Sheau
8/5	Rachel Carnahan	8/26	Rayna Mason
8/7	Claire Rodgers	8/27	Edelene Carroll
8/10	Nathan Lazo Will Schick, Jr.	8/28	Jennifer Tuck Lori Mason Denariel Benn Allie Frick
8/11	Jessica Rottinger	8/30	Elsie Neely
8/12	Larry McGhee		
8/13	Sue DeCray		
8/14	Peter Vagnoni Amanda Benjamin Suzy Brandt John May		
8/15	Allison Homer		
8/16	Pat Dillon		
8/18	Amarilis Stricker		

## Prayer List

Sharon Parker

Sarah Stephens & Maya Subramanian  
(Our representatives to the Triennium)

Jane Bevan

John Scott (Buck's brother)

Phyllis Watson

Terri Carter

*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.*

Mark Your Calendars...  
Friday, September 9, 2016  
Red Cross Blood Drive



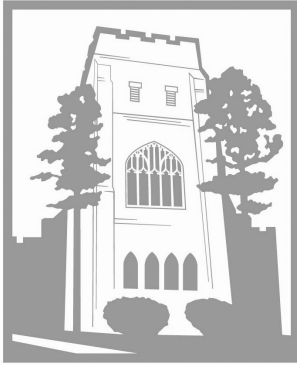
Dear Friends,

I am deeply grateful for the kindness, support, and prayers that were offered during my recent health challenge. Heartfelt gratitude is especially extended to all who came forward to support the Christian Education ministry of Overbrook during my absence. Each day I am reminded of the loving spirit and grace of our congregation.

Blessings to all,

Sharon Parker

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

## Farmer's Market is Back for the Season!!!

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the church parking lot

**About the Market:** Established in 2008, this market is located at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church, and has a loyal following of residents in the neighborhood who make this market a regular part of their Saturday mornings.

### Look for:

Apple Tree Goat Dairy, 144 miles to market from Richfield, PA  
*Goat cheese, raw milk, goat yogurt, eggs and pork products*

Anchor Nursery, 67 miles to market from Galena, MD

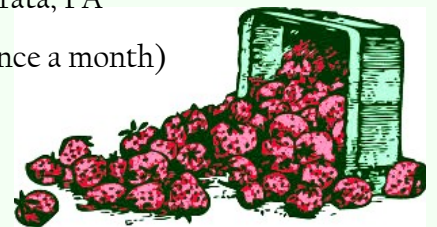
*Vegetables, flowers and potted plants*

Forest View Bakery, 72 miles to market from Lancaster, PA

Walnut Springs Farm, 112 miles to market from East Berlin, PA

Homestead Gardens, 68 miles to market from Ephrata, PA

Jennings 1785 Farm (once a month)



**Payment accepted:** Cash, ACCESS cards, Philly Food Bucks and WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers