



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

December 2016

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

—Mission Statement

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr.

Interim Minister

Rev. David K. McMillan

Pastor Emeritus

Dennis Elwell

Minister of Music

Margene Biedermann

Junior Choir Director

Lisa Faso

Office Manager

Earlene Ford

Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins

Church Custodian



Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Letter from the Pastor

By the Time You Read This...

By the time you read this we will be in Advent. Christmas will be coming in like a Lionel, only perhaps going out like a Lamb. Time will be measured in shopping days. Scripture readings from which sermons are drawn will start all over again, a year of scripture beginning at the beginning once more, once again for my 45th time. Discussions of how the winter might go, from our meteorologists to our travel agents, will have begun. *I am dreaming of a white Christmas* will be an occasional wonderment, prompted by Bing Crosby, ancient memories, and childhood yearnings. Houses suffused with Christmas decorations will be in a colorful chaos.

A supply of firewood will have been laid in and the first fires flamed, filling houses with warmth, hearts with hypnotic calm, and air with that familiar and lingering fragrance. We will sit by that fire addressing cards, thankful we can peel and not lick the stamps we affix to them. Little drafts will insinuate themselves around storm windows, reminding us that there are always threats to comfort, try as we might to keep ourselves either warm or at peace.

Some will fancy that they live in a clear envelope of angels in this season, like a transparent vessel, visually clear yet remotely safe. Fresh perceptions will come alive with startling grace. Revelation will be apparent. Mystery will be sensed. Awe will be experienced. Visitation will be welcomed.

By some.

Some will fancy that they live in a merely linear world, like a torrent of time tearing to some unforgiving end, unbroken by the wisp of divine Breath. The profane will occlude the Sacred. The Holy will be ignored and cast aside as frivolity and sentiment. The Majestic will be bypassed. There will be no room at the inn.

For some.

Yet in the midst of it all, perhaps in spite of it all, a Savior will be born. He cannot be stopped, only disbelieved. The Wise will have the wits to look up and to follow His star. And to find Him. And to bow down to Him. And to worship Him. And to go on their way, with Him, changed. Never the same.

By the time you read this, it will be Advent. But it will not be too late.

For any of us.

Sundays in December

December 4, 2016

Communion

2nd Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Trudy Sheau



December 11, 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Andrea Knight



December 18, 2016

4th Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Lynn Pompa



December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Jill Van Rawley

Advent & Christmas at Overbrook

December 4: 1:30 PM Museum Tour with Peter Seidel

December 17: 3:00 PM Hanging of the Greens/Family Crafts
5:00 PM Simple Buffet Dinner
6:00 PM Caroling at Saunders House (By Lankenau)

December 18: 10:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent

December 21: 7:30 PM The Service of the Longest Night

December 24: 5:00 PM Family Service
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Dinner
7:00 PM Gingerbread House Decorating
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25: 10:30 AM Christmas Day Service

Advent Candle Lighters

December 4: Leah & Scott Mayne
Dick & Judy Williamson

December 11: Terri & Solomon Hunter

December 18: Mary Elizabeth & Buck Scott

December 24- 5:00 pm : Sean & Kadie Whalen

December 24 - 9:00 pm: Carol & Thomas Tulba



OPC Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner and Gingerbread House Decorating

Everyone is invited to enjoy a simple meal served between the Family Service at 5:00 pm and Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 pm on Christmas Eve. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Wistar Morris Room so we can plan for an approximate number of attendees. This is one night during the hectic season that you don't have to cook dinner! There is no charge for the meal but we do take a free will offering to cover expenses. Volunteers are needed to set-up, serve, shop and clean-up and/or contribute cookies for dessert. An online sign-up sheet will also be sent via OPC Listserve.

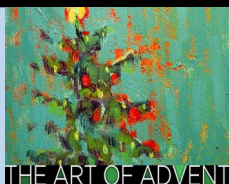
Gingerbread houses will be ready to be decorated after dinner. Please sign up by December 14th in the Wistar Morris Room or using the online sign up sheet that will be sent via OPC Listserve. We are asking families who sign up to give an \$8.00 donation to help defray the cost of the houses.

For questions on the meal, please contact Judy Williamson at judymwill@gmail.com or 610-687-6761. For questions on the gingerbread houses, please contact Artia Benjamin at newlife5125@aol.com. Thank you

Service of the Longest Night

The holidays can be difficult for us all: the stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things, whether because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying change.

This year we will gathering together on *December 21st at 7:30pm* for A Service of the Longest Night. Is it so named because of its proximity to the winter solstice-the longest night of the year. But the name is also fitting because-despite the wrappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols-the season can be darker than "normal" times of the year for those who struggle.



Everyone is invited to come join Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, to consider the reason for the season! On December 4th, come join Peter Seidel from 1:30-3:00pm for "The Art of Advent: Seven Centuries of Sacred Art at the Philadelphia". Everyone is to gather on the 2nd floor balcony in the Great Hall of the Philadelphia Art Museum at 1:30pm. The cost is "Pay what you wish" Sunday at the museum. There is plenty of parking at the museum or member can car-pool from the church right after service.

Congregational Life

December Coffee Hour Hosts

December 4

Emily Amerman & Jim Vagnoni

December 11

Kevin & Kristan Davis

December 18

TBA



December 25

TBA

Coming up!!

Special Congregational Meeting: Immediately after worship on Sunday December 11, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting to receive the report of the Nominating Committee posting their slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon and the At-Large Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee. Since, this meeting is a Special Congregational Meeting, no other business may be conducted except the business at hand.

Finance

SEPTEMBER 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 30,352.00	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 384,170.63	\$ 418,019.49
Total Expenses	\$ 40,640.02	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 350,165.99	\$ 414,075.33
Net	\$ (10,288.02)	\$ 438.24	\$ 34,004.64	\$ 3,944.16

Financial Reminder

As the year 2016 ends please remember:

All Pledge, Non-Pledge, Mission, Performing Arts and Apportionment offerings for 2016 must either be postmarked by no later than December 31, 2016 or placed in the Sunday collection plate by December 25, 2016

Any offerings postmarked or hand delivered after December 31, 2016 will be posted to your 2017 donor history, not your 2016 record.

If you have requested and used church envelopes previously or wish to begin using assigned envelopes for 2017, please call me at 215-877-2744. Envelopes will not be assigned unless you request them.

Sincerely,

Earlene M. Ford



Christian Education

Annual College Student Luncheon—December 18, 2016

We are having the annual College Student Luncheon on December 18th in the Chapel at noon. This year we are inviting high school seniors to come eat and fellowship with the college students.

Please contact Artia Benjamin for more information. RSVP at newlife5125@gmail.com or text at 215-266-8758 by December 12th.

Christian Education

FORUM in the coming months

Dec. 4th – Debunking Christmas (a reality check of Christmas facts)

Dec. 11th – Is this “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year?”

Dec. 18th – Christ’s Birth is the ‘Reason for the Season’

Dec. 25th – FORUM will take a break. Christmas Day is on this Sunday this year - come as you are – service at 10:30AM will be challenge enough to be on time for.

And then, we’re into a new year, 2017. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 1st – The New Year begins on a Sunday – FORUM will continue with informal conversations

January 8th – Re-showing the film “Out of Cordoba” by Jacob Bender. Movie starts at 9AM - For first time viewers, important to gain insight as to why Muslims, Jews and Christian can live in peace. For repeat viewers, a wonderful opportunity to more fully absorb this message of possibility for Peace among believers.

January 15th, Jacob Bender will be here in person to speak about his experiences and research, and why he produced “Out of Cordoba”. Don’t miss this opportunity to personally dialogue with the producer of this film.

We meet from 9:15-10:15 am in the Chapel on Sunday Mornings

Coffee is always on – just need your presence to continue the dialogue.



Martin Luther King Day of Service - January 16, 9:00-11:00am. All are invited and encouraged to come together in the spirit of Dr. King and in service to our community and congregation. Last year’s event brought together almost 80 members and friends of all ages. Let’s do it again!

Christian Education Volunteers Welcomed and Needed!

Come join an enthusiastic team of volunteers as we work to maintain and grow our educational ministry programs. In the absence of a Director of Christian Education, many hearts and hands are needed. The contribution of even an hour or an idea will be greatly appreciate. Please consider volunteering for one of the following events: chaperone a youth event, help plan the February Prayer Breakfast, contribute service project ideas for our Martin Luther King Day of Service. Please contact Jason Sheau or Sharon Parker with your ideas and/or offers of volunteerism.

Thank you to those who donated money to the Mainline CROP Hunger Walk. OPC raised \$170. Jason Sheau and Jill Van Rawley joined Ardmore Presbyterian, Penn Wynn Presbyterian and the Philadelphia Japanese churches on October 23rd at the WAWA Preserve .

OPC youth group members, Sam Wong, Anna Lemley and Emma Biedermann enjoy a hayride and bonfire with the youth groups from Ardmore Presbyterian and the Philadelphia Japanese Churches at Sugartown Strawberries Farm November 20th.



Personnel

“The Personnel Committee of Session has established the following Code of Conduct to assure courtesy, caring, confidentiality and civil discourse at all times in the work of the church.

Like many other organizations, we wanted to be explicit about behavior we expect, and would like to take for granted. Please take a minute to review it. “

Overbrook Presbyterian Church Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct established by the Overbrook Presbyterian Church (OPC) is a guide for those who serve the church as volunteers as well as those employed by the church, all of whom represent the church to each other, and to visitors. OPC aims to establish an environment that promotes productivity through caring, cooperation, and collaboration in the work of the church. To promote this environment:

1. Greet visitors and co-workers in a warm and courteous manner.
2. Be respectful and appreciate individual differences. Work to understand others, regardless of gender, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, marital status or sexual orientation.
3. Respect confidentiality. Do not seek information you do not need to know. Likewise, share sensitive information only with those who need to know. (Do not gossip.)
4. Use office supplies, equipment and other church resources wisely.
5. Seek help from the pastor or appropriate committee chair if problems, questions or disagreement arises about the work being done that cannot be easily resolved among office staff.
6. Be respectful in word and deed. Refrain from use of profanity.
7. Refrain from any form of harassment (verbal, physical, sexual, visual or psychological) toward another person, and report any such behavior toward you to your supervisor.
8. Portray a positive role model for everyone, particularly young people.

Mission & Outreach



“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24. God continues to hear our prayers about the OPC Mobile Pack event! After a period of silence from our contact at Monsignor Bonner/Archbishop Pendergast High School, I heard from him. He confirmed that they are interested and we are scheduling what we hope is the official kick-off planning meeting with our national FMCS contact just after Thanksgiving. The date is Saturday, April 22nd -we will share more when we have more to share! Thank you for your continued prayer and support. - Rebecca Lazo



Come Wield Your Power For Good at Overbrook Presbyterian Church's Fair Trade Market

Saturday, December 3
Sunday, December 4

9:00 to 3:00
9:00 to 1:30

It's not often that most of us feel powerful. The Fair Trade Market at OPC gives us an opportunity to be superheroes simply by purchasing some fantastic crafts, food and gifts.

Here's an example of how to become superman or superwoman:

A handcrafted product that you purchase from Bamboula Ltd. contributes directly to the economic and social well being of African artisans and their families. Most artisans use the money they earn from Bamboula Ltd. for basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, and medical services.

What good will your few dollars do, you ask? Well, 50% of Africans live on less than \$1.00 a day. Because of the work of Bamboula (and Overbrook volunteers) a substantial percentage of the purchase price makes it back to the artist. Poverty is replaced with a living wage.

Please come (superman cape optional) and wield your power at one or more of these tables:

The Women's Bean Project - Teaches job readiness and life skills for entry-level jobs through employment in the gourmet food business – tasty gourmet food

Tabitha - Silk products generate funds used to help the poorest people in Cambodia by running self-help programs focusing on personal and financial development

Bamboula Ltd. - Living wages for Africa

Equal Exchange - coffee, chocolate, tea, cocoa and more

Ten Thousand Villages - As a Fair Trade Pioneer, we believe market-based solutions can end the cycle of poverty (<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/about-us/>)

Global Crafts - “Our mission is simple - to improve the lives of some of the people with whom we share this planet.” (<https://www.globalcrafts.org/>)

Earth and State - “The Fair Trade movement has helped provide access to the producing communities that are focused on the empowerment of women, access to education, and minimal environmental impact.”

Come to our Market, do some shopping and change some lives!



We hope to be able to take credit cards this year, but bring your checkbook just in case --you don't want to miss out on getting that perfect gift for someone on your list.

Mission & Outreach



Many of you have asked if we are doing the Adopt-a-Family project this year. The answer: YES. Pathways PA has sent us a list of three needy families and their Christmas wish lists. You purchase and wrap the gifts and we deliver them to the Pathways Office. Cash donations are also welcome and we can do the shopping for you. They deliver the gifts to the families who end up with a robust and helpful Christmas. Please see Nancy Gilhool at coffee hour or contact her at gilhoolfam@verizon.net. If anyone would like to help Nancy with the logistics of the project, she would be eternally grateful.

Deacons



December Birthdays!!



12/2	Allison Kothari	12/13	Christine Stephens
	Caroline Kothari	12/15	Charmaine Bratcher
12/3	Jim Stephens	12/18	Maya Mendoza
12/6	Sue Graydon	12/19	Andrew Paul
12/8	Rebecca Rottinger	12/20	Gary Schwinn
	Margaret Mason		Bob Kaercher
12/9	Chanel Young	12/29	ZeeAnn Mason
12/10	Margene Biedermann		Christopher Schwartz
12/11	Alyce Marsh	12/30	John Gattone
		12/31	Max Mason

Carolyn Rodewald
Phyllis Watson
Frances Clark
Carrie Rider
Sharon Parker
Jim Vagnoni
Ernestine Harris



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.

Community

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority wishes to thank all who participated in the "Shredding Event" in the October. They wanted to thank you for over 115 canned goods that were contributed during the event and these canned goods were donated to the Thursday meals at Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is so happy to partner with Community Pantry.

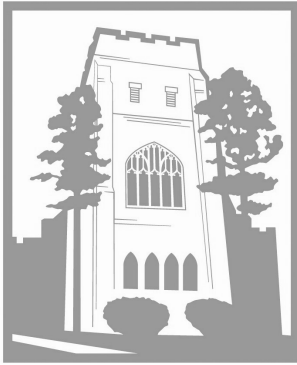


NCT's production of Tommy has just finished its run, and OPC's theatre concession was fully staffed. By raising additional funds for our church's operating budget, we've also enabled the theatre's audience to enjoy delicious refreshments to boot. It is with joyful thanks then to:

Danielle and Kendi Long, Carol and Jane Rozmiarek, Wendy Wall, Laine Blodgett, Bob, Peggy and Gail Kaercher, Nancy Gilhool, Artia Benjamin, Nickie Stokes, Edelene Carroll, Joan Moylan, Peju Adebanjo, Kate Shackelford, Charlotte Carpenter, Jill VanRawley and friend, Chris, Lois and Bill Randel, Judy and Dick Williamson, Kim Parrish, MacKenzie Blake, Kadie Whalen, and Ginny Leagans.

OPC's Theater Concession indeed, takes 'a little village' to pull it off. But the time to renew and refresh friendships during this process is also an invaluable piece of our fellowship here at Overbrook. Again, our warm appreciation to the above mentioned concessionaires. -Janet & Jeff Bowker, and Trudy Sheau

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Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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